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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56931

Title: *Clinical Profile and Sociodemographic and Psychosocial Correlates of Conversion Disorder in a Tribal Population of Maharashtra.*

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ **Accept after minor revision.....**
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- **Originality and Relevance:** The study addresses an important gap in the literature by focusing on the clinical and psychosocial profile of conversion disorder in a tribal population of Maharashtra, India. Its regional and cultural specificity enhances its contribution to underserved and understudied groups.
- **Methodology:** Utilizes a cross-sectional, descriptive design with robust clinical assessments based on ICD-10 criteria, incorporating both sociodemographic and psychosocial variables.
- **Data Quality:** Data collection appears thorough, involving semi-structured pro formas, and includes detailed clinical, demographic, and stressor-related information.
- **Significance:** Highlights the role of unique contextual factors such as Ashramshala boarding schools, which is relevant for targeted interventions and policy formulation in similar settings.

Weaknesses of the Study

- **Sample Size and Sampling Method:** The small sample size (n=25) limits the generalizability and statistical power. Convenience sampling may introduce bias.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Use of primarily descriptive statistics and chi-square tests limits depth of analysis. No advanced multivariate analysis was performed to control for confounders.
- **Potential Biases:** Reliance on self-reported psychosocial stressors can introduce recall bias. No mention of inter-rater reliability or triangulation methods.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Although ethical approval and consent are mentioned, specific ethical clearance details such as approval number or consent process specifics are lacking.
- **Presentation and Clarity:** Some sections, especially tables and figures, are presented with minimal explanation. The textual flow can be improved for clarity and coherence.
- **Literature Review and References:** The references include relevant sources, but some important recent studies on FND and cultural factors could strengthen the background.

Reviewer Comments

- **Title and Abstract:** The title accurately summarizes the focus of the study. The abstract clearly presents background, objectives, methodology, main findings, and conclusions. However, adding specific numeric data on key findings in the abstract could enhance clarity.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

- **Introduction and Objectives:** Provides a comprehensive overview of conversion disorder, contextualizing it within the Indian and tribal setting. The objectives are clear; however, explicitly stating the hypotheses or research questions would improve focus.
- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis:** The cross-sectional design is appropriate for descriptive aims. The use of semi-structured pro formas and ICD-10 criteria enhances diagnostic accuracy. Nonetheless, the small sample and convenience sampling limit external validity. Statistical analysis is limited to descriptive and chi-square tests; incorporating multivariate analyses could offer deeper insights. Clarification on inter-rater reliability and data collection procedures is needed.
- **Results and Discussion:** Results are systematically presented with relevant tables and figures. The discussion appropriately relates findings to existing literature while emphasizing the contextual factors. Some claims, especially regarding causality, should be made cautiously due to the study design. A deeper exploration of the cultural factors influencing presentation and stressors would be beneficial.
- **Conclusion and Implications:** The conclusions are well-aligned with findings, highlighting the importance of early recognition and culturally sensitive interventions. Recommendations for school-based mental health programs are valid but would benefit from proposing concrete strategies.
- **Ethical Clearance and Consent:** Approval and consent processes are mentioned but lack specific details such as approval number, ethics committee name, and how informed consent was obtained, especially from minors.
- **Language and Formatting:** Overall, the language is clear, but minor grammatical issues and typographical inconsistencies exist. Some sections could benefit from editing for conciseness and clarity.
- **Tables and Figures:** Tables are adequate but could be improved with clearer labels and legends. Figures referenced are not included here for review but should be checked for clarity and relevance.