

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-57430**

Title: Prevalence of Common Physical Health Problems Among Senior Citizens in a Rural Area of Rahata Taluka, Maharashtra: A Cross-Sectional Study

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

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

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

Reviewer's Comment

The manuscript investigates the prevalence of common physical health problems among elderly individuals in a rural setting in Maharashtra, India. The topic is both timely and relevant, particularly in light of the ongoing demographic transition and the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases among aging populations. The study is well-positioned within the broader public health discourse, especially concerning rural healthcare access, early diagnosis, and preventive interventions.

The manuscript demonstrates a clear research objective and adopts a structured quantitative approach. The focus on both prevalence and association with socio-demographic variables adds value, as it moves beyond descriptive epidemiology toward identifying potential determinants of health outcomes. The inclusion of clinical assessments alongside self-reported data strengthens the empirical basis of the study.

Scientific Contribution and Analytical Depth

The study makes a useful empirical contribution by providing localized data on elderly health in a rural Indian context, an area where evidence remains comparatively limited. The findings are clearly

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presented, particularly in the results section (pages 3–4), where vision problems emerge as the most prevalent condition, followed by hypertension and hearing impairment. The table on page 4 effectively distinguishes between previously diagnosed and newly detected cases, highlighting a significant proportion of undiagnosed conditions, especially for vision (18%) and hearing problems (15.3%). This is an important contribution, as it underscores gaps in routine screening and healthcare access.

The discussion section appropriately relates the findings to existing literature and situates the results within broader public health concerns. The identification of associations between health conditions and variables such as age, education, diet, and exercise (pages 4–5) reflects a sound analytical approach.

However, the analytical depth could be further enhanced. While the study identifies statistically significant associations, the interpretation of these relationships remains somewhat limited. A more critical engagement with why these associations exist—particularly in the socio-economic and healthcare context of rural India—would strengthen the paper. Additionally, the discussion could more explicitly address the policy implications of the findings, especially in relation to primary healthcare strengthening and geriatric care frameworks.

Methodology and Research Design

The use of a descriptive cross-sectional design is appropriate for the stated objectives. The sample size of 150 participants is reasonable for a community-based study, and the combination of structured interviews with clinical assessments (BMI, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and urine sugar) enhances the reliability of the data.

Nevertheless, certain methodological aspects require clarification. The use of purposive sampling limits the representativeness of the sample, and this limitation should be more explicitly discussed in the methodology section rather than only briefly acknowledged later. Additionally, while the tools used for clinical assessment are mentioned, further detail regarding standardization procedures and measurement reliability would improve methodological rigor.

The statistical analysis is generally appropriate, with the use of descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests. However, the reporting of statistical results could be improved by including p-values alongside Chi-square values for greater transparency.

Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript is well-structured, following a conventional format with clear sections for introduction,

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methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion. The flow of the argument is logical, and the use of tables enhances the presentation of data.

However, the paper would benefit from careful language editing. There are minor grammatical inconsistencies, spacing issues, and typographical errors throughout the manuscript. Some sentences are overly long or lack clarity, particularly in the introduction and methodology sections. Streamlining these sections would improve readability.

Final Recommendation

Overall, the manuscript presents a relevant and methodologically sound study with clear public health implications. It contributes valuable empirical data on elderly health in a rural context and highlights important gaps in diagnosis and treatment.

While minor revisions are required to enhance analytical depth, clarify methodological details, and improve language quality, these issues do not detract from the overall contribution of the study.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.