



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 76167

Title: Substance use and substance use disorders in Africa: an epidemiological approach to review of existing literature

Reviewer’s code: 02729669

Table with 2 columns: Reviewer's question and response options. Rows include Scientific quality, Language quality, Conclusion, Re-review, and Peer-reviewer statements.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

a. The authors discussed an important mental health issue focussing on Africa.

Response: Yes sir we did

b. The authors had mentioned “According to the World Drug Report[2], approximately 275 million people used drugs worldwide in the preceding year, with another 36 million persons diagnosed with substance use disorders globally”. Kindly mention the time frame of this data (year of the report).

Response: The year 2022 has been included in the text



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c. The authors should mention about the search strategy, time frame of search and databases searched. May be a flow diagram will be useful.

Response: Although **this is a narrative review** we have include this state in the text “we examine extant literature (PubMed, Google scholar, Medline) for information on the prevalence, trends, and influencers of substance use and the development of substance use disorders”.

d. In this topic, the content under the heading “History and global prevalence of substance use and substance use disorders” is not relevant as it discusses about global scene and the article discusses the researches in Africa only.

Response: **This section is now shortened considerably, leaving only sections that are relevant to the review**

e. The authors may give a table or figure showing the prevalence rate of individual substances

Response: **We mentioned severally that there is a paucity of data on the prevalence rates of individual; substances**

f. The authors only focussed on the epidemiology of substance use disorders. The title may be rephased accordingly.

Response: **This has been done**

g. The authors may discuss about the limitations of existing research and recommendations to overcome these limitations before the conclusion section, under a separate heading

Response: **This has been included under a subheading before conclusion.**



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: Substance use and substance use disorders in Africa: an epidemiological approach to review of existing literature

Reviewer's code: 05789838

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a literature review on Substance use and substance use disorders in Africa. In the first part, the author uses a lot of space to introduce the history of substance use in the world and Africa. This should not be the focus of the paper. It is suggested that the introduction of history should be as concise and clear as possible, rather than detailed. In the second part, the author presents the situation of substance use in Africa, but the lack of generalization makes it difficult for the reader to clearly guide the author on what the core point of the author wants to express. In the third part, how to solve the rapidly developing substance use and substance use disorders in Africa should be the focus of



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the full text and the direction of future research, but the author discusses it very briefly. In general, I feel that this literature review still needs major revisions. On the one hand, it is necessary to simplify the unimportant parts, and on the other hand, it is necessary to explain in more detail what the real value of this review is. At the same time, the authors should also make inferences about the direction of future research based on the current literature.

Response: The manuscript has been revised to remove parts that may not be too important also typographical error have been corrected



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: Substance use and substance use disorders in Africa: an epidemiological approach to review of existing literature

Reviewer's code: 05824731

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Grade B: Verygood[] Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair[] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Prioritypublishing[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Grade B: Minor languagepolishing[] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing[] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority)[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Accept(General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision[]Major revision[] Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review:[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]Anonymous[] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest:[]Yes[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The title reflects the main subject and the abstract gives the summary of the manuscript well. Perhaps, keywords of substance use, Africa can be added. The background and significance of the study is provided. The method was not given, as it is a literature review. The review is quite comprehensive, backed with up to date and plenty of literature. The tables are clear and functional. The manuscript is quite long (9160 words) as it gives extensive review, perhaps this can be more concise. Organization and logical sequence is sound and coherent. References style can be more uniform. The language and grammar used in the writing is okay, but I have some minor corrections, regarding



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minor typos and errors in punctuation marks and spacing: page 4 Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher page 6 .large page 9 erroneous believe -> belief page 24 and also provide what to be exact? page 24 the name of the table should be put above the table page 25 green buddha page 27 availability and access to evidence-based treatment facility were included page 27 prioritize, mitigate these problems page 27 how these impact page 28 "While there is currently a dearth of national data across the continent" this sentence can be deleted page 28 untreated drug use disorders mean page 28 evidence based page 28 prevent relapse. some spacing errors In general, the writing of this paper is acceptable, interesting to read about, yet quite lengthy. It brings useful findings to improve public policy and practice in regard to tackling substance use problems in Africa. Overall, I commend this paper to be published, with just minor corrections as I have stated above.

Response: We have corrected all grammatical and spacing errors we have also edited the entire manuscript correcting for typos and punctuation errors



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Title: Substance use and substance use disorders in Africa: an epidemiological approach to review of existing literature

Reviewer’s code: 02729669

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y] Grade B: Verygood[] Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair[] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Prioritypublishing[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y] Grade B: Minor languagepolishing[] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing[] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority)[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y] Accept(General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision[]Major revision[] Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review:[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y]Anonymous[] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest:[]Yes[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

None

Response: Thanks for your comments.