

18.09.2020

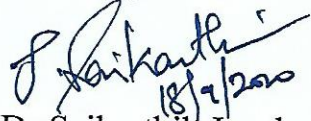
Dr Saikarthik Jayakumar  
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Dear Editor,

We thank you for your generous comments on the manuscript and have edited the manuscript to address all concerns.

We believe that the manuscript is now suitable for publication in PeerJ

Thanking You,



Dr Saikarthik Jayakumar  
Assistant Professor of Anatomy

On behalf of all authors.

### **Editor's comments**

***My first concern is the English language is not written in native American or British English. Further, the paper also has some language issues, for example, line 44 and 52, "&" should not be used, "and" is appropriate. Line 116-117, it is inappropriate to say "depression is found to be higher", which should be the level of depression. I strongly suggest the authors to have their paper polished by native speakers.***

As suggested, the manuscript was edited for language correction by native English speakers.

***My second concern is the unnecessarily long abstract. I think it can be written in a more concise way. For example, there is no need to provide so many statistical details here. In addition, it is not necessary to abbreviate depression as "D", as well as anxiety and stress.***

Corrections made as suggested.

***My third concern is the inaccurate conclusion. Because one of the three mental health indicators, depression, did not change significantly after the outbreak, it seems not strict to say "has a negative impact on mental health". The term "mental health" is broad, which should be specific to anxiety and stress based on findings of the present study.***

***Third, line 86-89, please update the figures accordingly. India has been the second in the world.***

Corrections made as suggested.

***Fourth, line 167-170, sample size estimation is described in a confused way. First, it should not be limited to cross-sectional design, cohort design should also be considered. Second, the sample is recruited from an institution, not an infinite population. Please consult a bio-statistician to address this issue.***

The methodology section has been corrected as per suggestions from a biostatistician.