

Peer-Review Report

Peer Review of “Mobile App–Reported Use of Traditional Medicine for Maintenance of Health in India During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Questionnaire Study”

Ojelanki Ngwenyama, MS, MBA, PhD

Institute for Innovation and Technology Management, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada

Related Articles:

Preprint: <http://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/25703>

Authors' Response to Peer-Review Reports: <https://med.jmirx.org/2021/2/e29626/>

Published Article: <https://med.jmirx.org/2021/2/e25703/>

(*JMIRx Med* 2021;2(2):e29632) doi: [10.2196/29632](https://doi.org/10.2196/29632)

KEYWORDS

AYUSH Sanjivani app; COVID-19; traditional medicine; Ayurveda; Siddha; Unani; homeopathy

This is a peer-review report submitted for the paper "Mobile App–Reported Use of Traditional Medicine for Maintenance of Health in India During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Questionnaire Study"

Round 1:

I would like to thank the authors for doing an investigation of how health apps might help individuals manage their personal health. However, this paper makes some claims that cannot be defended based on the research design [1]. For example, the authors state, “79.1% of the users responded that the practice

of AYUSH measures gave an overall feeling of good health and improved immunity.” I have no problem with claims of “overall feelings of good health”, but claims of improved immunity to COVID-19 are misleading. There is no possibility for the subjects to claim “improved immunity.” This would have required clinical testing for antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

I believe that the fundamental problem is with the study design, especially the questions the researchers asked concerning reasons for using the AYUSH Sanjivani app: “Helped in prevention from COVID-19” and “Reduced the symptoms while having COVID-19.” There is no scientific basis to ask such questions in the context of their study.

Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

Reference

1. Srikanth N, Rana R, Singhal R, Jameela S, Singh R, Khanduri S, et al. Mobile App–Reported Use of Traditional Medicine for Maintenance of Health in India During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Questionnaire Study. *JMIRxMed* 2021 May;2(2):e25703 [[FREE Full text](#)] [doi: [10.2196/25703](https://doi.org/10.2196/25703)]

Edited by E Meinert; this is a non-peer-reviewed article. Submitted 14.04.21; accepted 14.04.21; published 07.05.21.

Please cite as:

Ngwenyama O

Peer Review of “Mobile App–Reported Use of Traditional Medicine for Maintenance of Health in India During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Questionnaire Study”

JMIRx Med 2021;2(2):e29632

URL: <https://xmed.jmir.org/2021/2/e29632>

doi: [10.2196/29632](https://doi.org/10.2196/29632)

PMID:

©Ojelanki Ngwenyama. Originally published in *JMIRx Med* (<https://med.jmirx.org>), 07.05.2021. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which

permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work, first published in JMIRx Med, is properly cited. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on <https://med.jmirx.org/>, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.