

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and well-being of communities: An exploratory qualitative study protocol
AUTHORS	Shahil Feroz, Anam; Akberali, Naureen; Akber Ali, Noshaba; Feroz, Ridah; Nazim Meghani, Salima; Saleem, Sarah

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Xiaoyun Zhou Centre for Online Health, The University of Queensland, Australia
REVIEW RETURNED	03-Aug-2020

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This study aims to understand community residents' perception of COVID-19, and its impact on their psychological well-being, which is an important area to explore in order to fully understand the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>This is an interesting and important topic to investigate, with in-depth interview, the authors could gather rich information from residents. However, there are several points about this study protocol which are confusing to me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In the title, 'when COVID-19 enters in community setting' is confusing to me, because this implies that the authors are investigating communities which have COVID-19 cases. However, when I read through the inclusion/exclusion criteria, it is evident that the authors aim to target community residents who have not contacted the disease, thus it is suggested that the title be rephrased.2. This study aims to investigate the psychological impact of COVID-19 on residents in communities. However, in introduction, it is not fully clarified why the authors choose "community" as the sample. Thus it is suggested that in the background section, the authors could refer to several studies and discussed the potential impact of COVID-19 on communities, and the highlight the importance of investigating "community" residents. Also, as the psychological impact of COVID-19 on general public has been understood by more researchers, it is suggested that the background section could reduce this content, and extend the content about communities. <p>Furthermore, the research questions is unclear to me. In the background section, if I understand this right, the authors identified two aims of the current study, which are to understand: (1) what are the "perception" and "attitudes" of the COVID-19 among community residents? and (2) what is the "impact" of those perceptions & attitudes on those residents' mental well-being?</p>
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	<p>However, it is unclear to me how the authors are going to address research question (2). Please clarify what does research question (2) mean and how are you going to measure it?</p> <p>3. In introduction, the authors identified investigating “perception” and “attitudes” as one of the aims of the study, however, in Annex-1 (page 14, line 27), the interview questions are about “perception” and “knowledge”, it is suggested that the terms used be kept in accordance throughout the manuscript. It would be good if the authors could clarify the definition of “perception” and “attitudes”.</p> <p>4. Language: This paper might need additional editing from academics who are native English speaker, as there are a number of grammar errors in the manuscript, several examples are given below: In the title-- “when COVID-19 enters in community setting”, to my knowledge, “enter” should not be followed with “in”, thus it is recommended that “in” be deleted. Page 5 line 32-33, “The COVID-19 pandemic.....related to its management and infection spread”, this sentence is too long and grammar is incorrect, thus it is suggested that the authors insert “which are” between “population” and “related to its” (Page 5 line 33). Alternatively, the authors can break this sentence into several shorter sentences.</p>
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REVIEWER	Chavez M Phelps Indiana State University
REVIEW RETURNED	11-Sep-2020

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>The author indicated that they will cease interviews once saturation has occurred. The author needs to explain the process for determining this. Further, the author indicated they purposely selected the identified communities. Why were those communities selected? Also, the author needs to indicate how they will select the participants. With regard to the data analysis, the author needs to discuss a plan for ensuring interrater reliability.</p> <p>In terms of grammar, please do not use contractions. Also, I noticed the author spelled "covid 19" and not COVID-19 in certain sections of the paper.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Reviewer Name: Xiaoyun Zhou

Institution and Country: Centre for Online Health, The University of Queensland, Australia

Please state any competing interests or state ‘None declared’: None declared

Comments to the Author

This study aims to understand community residents’ perception of COVID-19, and its impact on their psychological well-being, which is an important area to explore in order to fully understand the impact of COVID-19.

This is an interesting and important topic to investigate, with in-depth interview, the authors could gather rich information from residents. However, there are several points about this study protocol

which are confusing to me:

1. In the title, ‘when COVID-19 enters in community setting’ is confusing to me, because this implies that the authors are investigating communities which have COVID-19 cases. However, when I read through the inclusion/exclusion criteria, it is evident that the authors aim to target community residents who have not contacted the disease, thus it is suggested that the title be rephrased. (Title has been rephrased)

2. This study aims to investigate the psychological impact of COVID-19 on residents in communities. However, in introduction, it is not fully clarified why the authors choose “community” as the sample. Thus it is suggested that in the background section, the authors could refer to several studies and discussed the potential impact of COVID-19 on communities, and the highlight the importance of investigating “community” residents. Also, as the psychological impact of COVID-19 on general public has been understood by more researchers, it is suggested that the background section could reduce this content, and extend the content about communities. (Study background mainly intended to highlight issues of the community and not the general population. We have replaced the term of the general population with communities.)

Furthermore, the research questions is unclear to me. In the background section, if I understand this right, the authors identified two aims of the current study, which are to understand: (1) what are the “perception” and “attitudes” of the COVID-19 among community residents? and (2) what is the “impact” of those perceptions & attitudes on those residents’ mental well-being? (The research aim has been rephrased, as suggested)

However, it is unclear to me how the authors are going to address research question (2). Please clarify what does research question (2) mean and how are you going to measure it? (The additional questions (related to fear, anxiety, stress) in the interview guide will help answer the second aim of this study)

3. In introduction, the authors identified investigating “perception” and “attitudes” as one of the aims of the study, however, in Annex-1 (page 14, line 27), the interview questions are about “perception” and “knowledge”, it is suggested that the terms used be kept in accordance throughout the manuscript. It would be good if the authors could clarify the definition of “perception” and “attitudes”. (We have made changes to annex 1)

4. Language:

This paper might need additional editing from academics who are native English speaker, as there are a number of grammar errors in the manuscript, several examples are given below:

In the title-- “when COVID-19 enters in community setting”, to my knowledge, “enter” should not be followed with “in”, thus it is recommended that “in” be deleted.

Page 5 line 32-33, “The COVID-19 pandemic.....related to its management and infection spread”, this sentence is too long and grammar is incorrect, thus it is suggested that the authors insert “which are” between “population” and “related to its” (Page 5 line 33). Alternatively, the authors can break this sentence into several shorter sentences. (This has been corrected. Also, entire manuscript has been checked for language corrections)

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Chavez M Phelps

Institution and Country: Indiana State University

Please state any competing interests or state ‘None declared’: There are no competing interests.

Comments to the Author

The author indicated that they will cease interviews once saturation has occurred. The author needs to explain the process for determining this. Further, the author indicated they purposely selected the identified communities. Why were those communities selected? Also, the author needs to indicate how they will select the participants. With regard to the data analysis, the author needs to discuss a plan for ensuring interrater reliability. (We have added some points in the manuscript to provide clarification on the comments)

In terms of grammar, please do not use contractions. Also, I noticed the author spelled "covid 19" and not COVID-19 in certain sections of the paper.(Grammar has been checked and now we have used 'COVID-19' in the entire manuscript)

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Chavez Maurice Phelps Indiana State University
REVIEW RETURNED	02-Dec-2020
GENERAL COMMENTS	This study will make a great contribution to the literature. Please do not use contractions in your writing.