

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Advanced Research and Reports
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJARR_126113
Title of the Manuscript:	Perception of Parents of Children with Mental Illness in Kisii County, Kenya
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.		
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)		
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.		
Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?		
Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.		
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.		

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>		
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Peer Review of "Perception of Parents of Children with Mental Illness in Kisii County, Kenya"</p> <p>Relevance of the Topic and Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The topic of this study is highly relevant, particularly within the context of Sub-Saharan Africa, where mental health issues, especially among children, are often under-researched and poorly understood. By focusing on the perceptions of parents toward children with mental illnesses in Kisii County, Kenya, this research addresses a critical gap in both the scholarly literature and public discourse. Mental health is increasingly recognized as a crucial component of overall well-being, and understanding parental perceptions can significantly influence early diagnosis, treatment, and societal acceptance. The study also highlights the intersection of cultural perceptions and mental health, which is an underexplored yet essential area in mental health research in African contexts. <p>Overall Strengths of the Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely and Important Topic: The study focuses on a critical issue—parental perceptions of child mental health in a region where mental illness is often stigmatized. This is a major strength, as it can contribute to policy, mental health interventions, and awareness campaigns that are much needed in Kenya and similar contexts. The cross-sectional design employed in the study is appropriate for investigating perceptions at a given point in time. The use of tools such as the Reporting Questionnaire for Children (RQC) and DSM-V criteria provides a solid foundation for assessing mental health disorders. Comprehensive Literature Review: The manuscript provides a wide range of references to existing literature, which helps to situate the study within the broader context of mental health research. This is particularly valuable for readers unfamiliar with the state of mental health care and research in Africa. Statistical Analysis: The use of SPSS for statistical analysis, including logistic regression, adds rigor to the study and improves the credibility of its findings. The presentation of results in tables and figures is clear and easy to follow. <p>Overall Weaknesses of the Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Depth in Discussion: The discussion section does not fully engage with the potential implications of the findings, particularly in relation to policy and interventions. While the results are presented clearly, the broader implications for health care policy, public health outreach, and future research are not sufficiently explored. Cultural Context Not Fully Examined: Although the study mentions that cultural perceptions may influence how parents understand child mental disorders, this aspect is not deeply analyzed. Given the cultural diversity in Kenya, a more nuanced discussion of how local beliefs, traditions, and societal norms shape parental perceptions would enrich the manuscript. Limited Sample Scope: The paper does not address potential sampling biases or limitations in enough detail, which could undermine the robustness of the conclusions. Redundancy in Reporting Results: In some sections, especially in the results section, there is redundancy in presenting the data. For example, the same information is repeated in both table form and narrative form without adding significant value. This could be streamlined for brevity. Inconsistent Use of Citations: While the literature review is strong, some points in the introduction and discussion sections lack sufficient citation to back up the claims. This is particularly true when discussing general trends in mental health perceptions in Africa. More references could strengthen these claims. <p>Section-Specific Areas of Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: The abstract provides a good summary of the study but could benefit from greater clarity. The term "predictors of negative or positive perception" is somewhat vague and could be more specific. Additionally, the abstract lacks a brief mention of the sample size and the main demographic characteristics of the participants, which would help readers better understand the scope of the study. Clarify the key predictors identified in the study and briefly mention the sample size and demographic characteristics to give a clearer overview of the study's scope. Introduction: The introduction provides a comprehensive background on mental health perceptions globally and in Africa, but it does not sufficiently narrow down to the Kenyan context until later in the section. The introduction could be more concise and focused on the research question at hand. Additionally, the objectives of the study are clearly laid out, but the hypotheses are not explicitly stated. Provide a more focused introduction on the Kenyan context earlier in the section. Also, explicitly state the hypotheses to guide the reader through the study's intended contributions. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology: The methodology is well-documented but could benefit from more detail on the ethical considerations, particularly how informed consent was obtained from parents and how the study ensured confidentiality. Additionally, the exclusion criteria (e.g., "parents too young to understand some information") are somewhat vague and could be more clearly defined. Include more detail on the ethical considerations and provide clearer explanations for the exclusion criteria. • Results: The results are presented clearly, but as mentioned earlier, there is some redundancy between the narrative descriptions and the tables. The figures and tables are helpful but could be streamlined for a more concise presentation. Additionally, while some variables are discussed in detail, others, like the economic status of parents, are mentioned but not deeply analyzed. Reduce redundancy by either focusing more on the tables or the narrative descriptions. Consider exploring the impact of economic status on parental perceptions in greater detail. • Discussion: The discussion section touches on important points but lacks depth in analyzing the broader implications of the findings. For example, the role of stigma in parental perceptions is not thoroughly discussed, even though it's an important theme in the introduction. The discussion could also benefit from comparing the findings with more recent studies, both from Kenya and other similar contexts. Expand the discussion on the implications of stigma and cultural factors in shaping parental perceptions. Compare findings with more recent studies to provide a broader context for the results. • Conclusion: The conclusion is concise but does not fully capture the importance of the study's findings. While the recommendations are practical, they could be more specific. For instance, when recommending health education, it would be useful to outline what content such education should include and how it can be delivered effectively in Kisii County. Provide more specific recommendations for health education initiatives and outline potential areas for future research, especially regarding interventions that could change parental perceptions. • References: The references are comprehensive but could benefit from being updated with more recent studies, particularly those published after 2019. Some references appear to be outdated, which might affect the relevance of the literature review. Update the reference list with more recent studies to ensure the literature review is current and reflective of the latest research. <p>My final opinion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summary, this manuscript addresses a critical and underexplored issue: the perceptions of parents toward children's mental illness in Kisii County, Kenya. The study has several strengths, including its relevance, methodological rigor, and clear presentation of results. However, there are areas that require improvement, particularly in the depth of the discussion, the examination of cultural factors, and the specificity of the conclusions and recommendations. With some revisions, this paper could make a significant contribution to the field of mental health research in Kenya and beyond. 	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Tarvinga Muzingili
Department, University & Country	University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe