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Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Advanced Research and Reports
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJARR_123571
Title of the Manuscript:	PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN AND SOCIAL STIGMATIZATION DUE TO LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IN BUNZA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KEBBI STATE, NIGERIA.
Type of the Article	

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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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>
<p>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.</p>	<p>1. This manuscript is crucial for the scientific community as it sheds light on the often-overlooked psychological burden and social stigmatization associated with lymphatic filariasis in Bunza Local Government Area of Kebbi State, Nigeria. By exploring the mental health challenges and social consequences faced by affected individuals, the research provides valuable insights into the broader impact of the disease beyond its physical symptoms.</p> <p>2. The findings can inform public health strategies that integrate psychological support and community education, helping to reduce stigma and improve the quality of life for those living with the condition.</p> <p>3. This work is essential for developing holistic approaches to disease management in endemic regions.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>YES</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The findings underscore the importance of addressing mental health in neglected tropical disease programs and can inform interventions aimed at improving both the physical and psychological well-being of affected populations.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>Minor modification is required</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The phrase "aimed at assessing the psychological burden and stigmatization status of lymphatic filariasis in Bunza LGA of Kebbi State" needs a few modifications for clarity and accuracy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Lymphatic filariasis" should be corrected to "lymphatic filariasis", as it refers to the disease, not the parasite. 2. The phrase could be more precise by mentioning the affected individuals and emphasizing the dual focus of the study. <p>Aimed at assessing the psychological burden and stigmatization experienced by individuals affected by lymphatic filariasis in Bunza LGA of Kebbi State."</p> <p>This version clarifies the focus on the individuals affected by the disease and improves readability.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Suggestions for Minor Revisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification of Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure the aim statement clearly emphasizes both psychological and social impacts, as in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>"This study aimed to assess both the psychological burden and the extent of social stigmatization experienced by individuals affected by lymphatic filariasis in Bunza LGA, Kebbi State, Nigeria."</i> 2. Methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand the description of quantitative and qualitative techniques slightly for clarity. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>"This study employed a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative techniques through semi-structured questionnaires and interview schedules to gather data from affected and unaffected individuals in the community."</i> 3. Results Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider breaking down key results into clear thematic sections. For example, the findings on marriage, family support, psychological impacts, and stigmatization could each have separate subheadings. For clarity, you can also refine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>"Of the 400 participants (32 affected, 368 unaffected), 97.5% of respondents would not propose marriage to someone with physical disabilities due to LF, yet 59.0% would not divorce their spouse if they contracted LF after marriage."</i> ▪ Replace "contact the disease" with "contract the disease" for accuracy. 4. Conclusion and Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Add a bit more emphasis on the potential solutions or interventions to mitigate psychological impact, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>"While isolation and stigmatization were found to be minimal, the significant psychological burden underscores the need for comprehensive morbidity management, including mental health support, to alleviate the suffering of affected individuals in the community."</i> <p>These revisions would improve clarity, consistency, and the academic rigor of the manuscript while maintaining the original findings.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>The article can be accepted with minor corrections</p> <p>When considering ethical issues in the manuscript titled <i>"Psychological Burden and Social Stigmatization Due to Lymphatic Filariasis in Bunza Local Government Area of Kebbi State, Nigeria,"</i> the following key aspects need to be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informed Consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participants must have given informed consent before participating in the study. It should be explicitly stated that all participants were adequately informed about the purpose, methods, and possible risks involved in the study and that their participation was voluntary. 2. Confidentiality and Anonymity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The privacy and confidentiality of participants must be ensured. Personal identifiers should be anonymized, and data should be handled securely to prevent unauthorized access. 3. Vulnerable Populations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As the study involves individuals with a debilitating disease, extra care must be taken 	

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	<p>to avoid exploitation or harm. The study should acknowledge and address the ethical responsibility of working with individuals who might be emotionally or psychologically vulnerable due to their condition.</p> <p>4. Psychological Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given the focus on psychological burden, the researchers must be careful not to exacerbate emotional distress through the questioning process. Any participant showing signs of distress during data collection should have been offered appropriate support or referrals to psychological counseling. <p>5. Voluntary Participation and Right to Withdraw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The manuscript should confirm that participants were informed about their right to withdraw from the study at any point without any negative consequences. <p>6. Cultural Sensitivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since the study involves sensitive topics like stigmatization and social exclusion, it is essential that the research methods and interactions are respectful of local cultural norms and values. This includes careful handling of culturally sensitive topics such as marriage and family dynamics. <p>7. Ethical Approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The manuscript should mention whether ethical approval was obtained from an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee, and details of this approval should be provided to ensure transparency. <p>Addressing these ethical concerns will ensure that the study upholds high ethical standards and protects the well-being and rights of all participants.</p>	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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