

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Medicine and Medical Research
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JAMMR_126722
Title of the Manuscript:	KNOWLEDGE LEVELS AND PREVENTIVE PRACTICES REGARDING DENGUE AND CHIKUNGUNYA AMONG OUTPATIENTS IN DAR ES SALAAM AND ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL HOSPITAL-BASED STUDY
Type of the Article	

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

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 (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
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)	Knowledge and Preventive Practices Regarding Dengue and Chikungunya Among Outpatients in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, Tanzania: A Cross-Sectional Study	
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.	Overall Comments: Ensure that technical terms like "Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice" are introduced in a standardized manner (e.g., using "KAP" after the first mention). If available, include information about the limitations of the study briefly. Consider adding a sentence to the conclusion about potential future research directions or interventions that could be explored.	
Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	Suggestions for Improving the Introduction:  1. <b>Opening Sentence:</b> ○ Consider making the opening sentence more engaging by emphasizing the growing global significance: "Dengue and chikungunya, both arbovirus diseases, present significant and increasing public health challenges in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide." 2. <b>Disease Characteristics:</b> ○ The section describing symptoms is clear, but adding why these shared symptoms are important could strengthen the context (e.g., difficulty in diagnosis or overlapping clinical management). ○ Example: "These overlapping clinical symptoms can complicate diagnosis and delay targeted treatment efforts." 3. <b>Global and Regional Spread:</b> ○ The transition from global to local context (Tanzania) could be more seamless. Suggest merging the mention of global outbreaks and	

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	<p>African context into one cohesive paragraph to improve readability.</p> <p>4. <b>Relevance to Tanzania:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The paragraph discussing the decrease in malaria cases and the rise in non-malarial febrile illnesses could emphasize why this shift in disease patterns is significant for public health in Tanzania.</li><li>○ Example: <i>"As malaria cases decline, the rise in non-malarial febrile illnesses such as dengue and chikungunya presents new challenges for public health systems in Tanzania."</i></li></ul> <p>5. <b>Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The importance of KAP could be further highlighted by briefly mentioning how changes in these factors contribute to successful disease control.</li><li>○ Add a clarifying statement: <i>"Understanding and improving KAP within the community can enhance preventive behaviors and reduce transmission risks."</i></li></ul> <p>6. <b>Research Gap and Justification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The statement about existing studies and gaps could be condensed for clarity. Example: <i>"Although some studies have assessed KAP regarding arboviral diseases in Tanzania, they reveal significant knowledge gaps and limited community awareness."</i></li></ul> <p>7. <b>Study Purpose and Importance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The last sentence should clearly state the study's purpose and its broader implications. Consider: <i>"This hospital-based study aimed to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding dengue and chikungunya among outpatients at Temeke and Mnazi Mmoja Hospitals. These insights will inform targeted public health interventions and enhance community resilience to arboviral diseases."</i></li></ul>	
<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>This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Methodological Rigor:</b> The study employs a well-defined, health facility-based cross-sectional design, which is appropriate for assessing knowledge and preventive practices within a defined population. The use of systematic random sampling enhances the representativeness of the sample and minimizes selection bias, adding credibility to the findings.</li><li>2. <b>Detailed Data Collection Process:</b> The manuscript describes a structured data collection process using a pre-tested, pilot questionnaire in Swahili. This localization ensures cultural and linguistic relevance, improving the reliability and validity of participant responses. The training of interviewers and adherence to an interview manual further reduces potential biases in data collection.</li><li>3. <b>Comprehensive Statistical Analysis:</b> The study's statistical analysis, including descriptive statistics, chi-square testing, and multiple logistic regression, is thorough and appropriate for examining associations between socio-demographic variables and knowledge/practice outcomes. Reporting of p-values and confidence intervals allows for the evaluation of the statistical significance and robustness of the findings.</li><li>4. <b>Clear Presentation of Results:</b> The manuscript presents findings clearly, including both socio-demographic characteristics and detailed responses to knowledge and practices. The use of multivariable analysis to identify independent predictors strengthens the conclusions by controlling for confounders.</li></ol>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p> <p>=</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Recent Global Studies:</b> To align with the global context, adding recent studies from other countries affected by arboviral diseases, such as Brazil or other parts of Latin America, would help contextualize the findings further and show how Tanzania's results compare to those in similar environments.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Health and Education Interventions:</b> Including references that detail successful public health education interventions for vector-borne diseases in other regions could strengthen the recommendations for health education programs. For example, studies that report on the effectiveness of educational campaigns or community-driven preventive efforts against dengue could provide a comparative lens.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Socioeconomic Determinants and Health Literacy:</b> Citing recent reviews or meta-analyses on the influence of socioeconomic status on health knowledge and practices regarding vector-borne diseases would substantiate the manuscript's findings about the relationship between education, economic status, and awareness levels.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Behavioral Change and KAP Framework:</b> References that detail the KAP (Knowledge, Attitude, Practices) model's effectiveness in health interventions, particularly for mosquito-borne diseases, would support the manuscript's methodological basis and conclusions.</p>	

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<div>Minor REVISION comments</div> <div>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</div>		
<div>Optional/General comments</div>	<div>Overall Comments on the Article:</div> <div>Strengths:</div> <div><div>1. <b>Clear Study Focus:</b> The article clearly addresses an important public health issue—dengue and chikungunya awareness and prevention in Tanzania. This focus is especially relevant given the rising frequency of these diseases and their impact on African populations.</div><div>2. <b>Comprehensive Data Presentation:</b> The use of multiple tables and detailed demographic breakdowns allows for a thorough understanding of the socio-economic factors affecting knowledge and preventive practices in the study population. The inclusion of both descriptive and inferential statistics strengthens the conclusions.</div><div>3. <b>Relevance to Public Health:</b> By highlighting the insufficient knowledge and poor preventive practices among participants, the study directly informs public health strategies aimed at improving education, awareness, and preventive behaviors, which are critical in controlling outbreaks of vector-borne diseases like dengue and chikungunya.</div><div>4. <b>Comparison to Other Studies:</b> The comparison of findings to previous studies in other countries (e.g., Malaysia, the Philippines) provides important context and helps situate the study within a global framework.</div></div> <div>Areas for Improvement:</div> <div><div>1. <b>Introduction and Literature Review:</b><div><div>Contextualization:</div> The introduction could benefit from a more detailed discussion of the global burden of dengue and chikungunya, especially in Africa. Although the study clearly identifies a gap in knowledge and practices, it would be helpful to frame this gap in the context of the broader global health landscape.</div><div>Recent References:</div> Ensure that references are up to date, especially when discussing the current epidemiology of dengue and chikungunya in Africa. Citing more recent studies on the burden of these diseases in East Africa would strengthen the background.</div></div> <div>2. <b>Methodology:</b><div><div>Sample Size and Selection:</div> While the study provides a good breakdown of demographic variables, it would be helpful to further justify the choice of two hospitals (Temeke and Mnazi Mmoja) as study sites. The sampling strategy could be explained more clearly (e.g., random vs. convenience sampling).</div><div>Data Collection Tools:</div> There is no mention of how the data were collected (e.g., interviews, surveys, etc.). The tools and instruments used (such as questionnaires) should be described in greater detail, and their reliability and validity should be addressed.</div>	

3. **Analysis and Interpretation:**

Depth of Statistical Analysis:

 The study uses univariate and multivariate analysis to assess associations, which is strong. However, a more thorough discussion of the statistical methods (e.g., rationale for using prevalence ratios, how potential confounders were controlled) would enhance the rigor of the study.

Unexplained Variables:

 There are several variables (e.g., "I don't know" responses in Mode of Transmission and Breeding Sites) that might benefit from deeper exploration. Were these responses excluded from analysis, or were they counted in the proportions? Clarifying this would help in interpreting the findings.4. **Discussion and Interpretation:**

Link to Policy and Practice:

 The discussion should connect the findings more directly to policy implications, offering specific recommendations for public health interventions in Tanzania. For instance, how could the media or health facilities be better utilized to address the knowledge gaps?

Causal Inferences:

 Since the study is cross-sectional, it's important to emphasize that the findings show associations but not causality. Although this is briefly mentioned in the conclusion, it could be more strongly emphasized throughout the discussion.

Broader Context:

5. **Conclusion and Recommendations:**

Actionable Recommendations:

 The conclusion suggests further studies and emphasizes education. However, more specific recommendations for interventions would be useful. For example, what kind of public awareness campaigns (e.g., targeting specific demographics) could be implemented based on the study's findings?

Future Research:

 While future studies are recommended, discussing the potential limitations of the current study in greater detail

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	<p>would help to guide the design of future research (e.g., larger geographic coverage, longitudinal designs).</p> <hr/> <p><b>Writing and Formatting:</b></p> <p>1. <b>Clarity and Readability:</b> The article is well-written overall, but some sections could benefit from clearer transitions between ideas. For instance, the discussion of "socioeconomic factors" could flow more smoothly into the section on "awareness" to better connect the results.</p> <p>2. <b>Consistency in Reporting:</b> There is inconsistency in the reporting of percentages (e.g., "81." instead of "81.0%"). Such minor details should be corrected to ensure uniformity across tables and figures.</p> <p>3. <b>Graphical Representation:</b> The use of figures and graphs to complement the tables would greatly enhance the readability and provide a visual interpretation of the data. For example, a bar graph showing the percentage of participants aware of dengue and chikungunya could provide quick insight into the knowledge gaps.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Final Thoughts:</b> This study makes an important contribution to understanding the public health knowledge gaps regarding dengue and chikungunya in Tanzania. With a few enhancements, particularly in the areas of methodological transparency, statistical analysis, and actionable recommendations, the paper could provide even greater value for public health researchers and policymakers.</p>	
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PART 2:

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

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Abhishek.S.Lachyan
Department, University & Country	University Malaya, Malaysia