

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Infectious Diseases
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRID_78659
Title of the Manuscript:	Knowledge, Practices and Attitude of Health Care Support Personnel on COVID-19: A Comparative Study Bhutan and Sri Lanka.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for 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 guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>There is need to further state the similarities and or differences of the two study areas in terms of socio-cultural, demographic, geographical as well as socio-economic characteristics.</p> <p>Please, there is need to explain why selection of one Teaching Hospital from Sri-lanka and three Referral Hospitals in Bhutan? Are they of same level and authority in health care? The principle of comparism in research ensures similarity of area of study such that issues of effect, not compromised to introduce bias in the study.</p> <p>There is need to state the sample size determination formular as there is a difference between sampling technique and sample size determination. Also, comparisim study must take into consideration, proportionality factor of the study population in sample size, which in this study in not.</p> <p>Since there is an observed major defect in the sample size determination and its proportionality, it is my candid suggestion that the title be modified to “Knowledge, Practices and Attitude of Health Care Support Personnel on COVID-19 in selected communities in South Asia”.</p>	<p>Bhutan is situated in the eastern Himalayas with a total area of 36 394 sq. km and has a population of 774 830. The country is in the medium human development index (HDI) category. Health services in the country are available through a three-tier structure: (i) basic health units (BHUs), sub-posts and outreach clinics (ORCs) at the primary level; (ii) district or general hospitals at the secondary level; and (iii) regional and national referral hospitals at the tertiary level. Traditional and allopathic medicine services are fully integrated and delivered under one roof. At present, there are three referral hospitals, 28 district hospitals including one indigenous hospital at Thimphu, 23 BHUs grade I (BHU-Is), 184 BHUs grade II (BHU-IIs), 28 sub-posts, 562 ORCs and 54 indigenous units.</p> <p>Sri Lanka is a South Asian Island nation in the Indian Ocean and has a population of nearly 21.7 million. The total land area of the country is 65 625 sq.km and includes the main island and several small islands in close proximity to the main land mass. The country is in the high human development index (HDI)category. There are 1,104 curative care hospitals in the government health services. The network of curative institutions is made up of national hospitals, teaching hospitals, provincial general hospitals, district general hospitals, base hospitals, and peripheral units such as divisional hospitals and rural hospitals.</p> <p>Referral hospitals in Bhutan and teaching hospitals in Sri Lanka provide the same tertiary care health services to the nation. As the population is small in each hospital of Bhutan, three hospitals were selected and in Sri Lanka one was enough to get the sample size.</p> <p>One hospital from Sri Lanka and Three from Bhutan were purposively selected due to the COVID-19 situation and for ease of data collection. Sampling limitations are mentioned under limitations.</p> <p>The most recent total healthcare support personnel population for the respective countries were collected from reliable sources. For Bhutan, 882 from the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan - 2019, National Statistics Bureau, Bhutan (page 23) and for Sri Lanka, 58190 from the Sri Lanka Essential Health Service Package 2019 by the Ministry of Health, SL (page 10). The sample size of 268 for Bhutan and 382 for Colombo was generated using the Cochran Sampling technique providing 95% confidence level and a corresponding margin of error of 5.</p>
Minor REVISION comments	<p>There is a disparity in the sample size earlier state in this report and that stated at the result section.</p>	<p>Though sample size for Bhutan is 268, the decision to cover the population of all staff in the three referral hospitals resulted in 392 support staff being included in the study.</p>
Optional/General comments		

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	The observed gaps in the study as enumerated should be addressed before the publication.	Since there is an observed major defect in the sample size determination and its proportionality, it is my candid suggestion that the title be modified to “Knowledge, Practices and Attitude of Health Care Support Personnel on COVID-19 in selected communities in South Asia”. If the editorial board thinks this topic is better yes you may change the topic. But as it is only two countries , I personally think the previous name is much suitable.
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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>	