




Exploring the Underlying Factors Influencing Help-Seeking Avoidance Among University Students

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paragraph starting with “Research over the past two decades...” restates points about stigma and self-reliance that are already introduced earlier. Consider integrating or condensing to avoid conceptual overlap.

In the sentence, “These findings are echoed across diverse cultural contexts...”, the authors mention “globally informed research” but rely heavily on Asian and Middle Eastern examples. Consider adding references from European or North American contexts to better support the global claim.

The description of data analysis includes the use of audit trails and memos. Consider explicitly stating how inter-coder reliability was assessed or whether member checking was employed.

The demographic summary mentions “international students” but does not specify country of origin or cultural background, which would be relevant given the thematic emphasis on cultural barriers.

While comprehensive, Table 1 lacks citation or reference to previous studies that support the chosen categories. Consider indicating whether themes align with existing theoretical frameworks or are newly emergent.

In “Category 2: Emotional and Psychological Factors,” subthemes such as “Fear of Vulnerability” and “Internalized Self-Stigma” may partially overlap. Clarify distinctions between subthemes or justify the separation with more distinctive narrative excerpts.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the paragraph that begins with “One key explanatory variable...”, the term “mental health literacy” is used without a formal definition. Add a brief operational definition to aid reader comprehension.

The “Study Design and Participants” section does not specify how diversity in gender, ethnicity, or field of study was ensured during purposive sampling. Clarify how sampling diversity was managed or monitored.

Throughout the findings, quotes are presented without demographic context (e.g., age, gender, field of study). Adding brief identifiers would enhance thematic interpretation and reader insight.

In the first discussion paragraph, the sentence “These observations reinforce the idea that in collectivist or traditional societies...” could be seen as overly deterministic. Consider adding a caveat acknowledging within-group variability.

The statement “This study contributes to a more grounded understanding...” in the last paragraph of the discussion should be expanded. Specify what is uniquely revealed in this study compared to prior qualitative studies cited.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.