Cover Letter

18th of October, 2021

Prof Ismi Dwi Astuti Nurhaeni Editor in chief Journal of Health Promotion and Behavior

Dear Ma,

On behalf of my co-authors, I am pleased to submit an original research article entitled "*Effect of Covid-19 Infodemic on Media Trust and Perceived Stress*" for consideration by the Journal of Health Promotion and Behavior

This work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, we discussed the results of an online survey conducted amongst the African Twitter community on the effect of Covid-19 infodemic on media trust and perceived stress through the perspectives of health communication and behaviour theories. The most significant findings of this study is the fact that participants within the age group 17 -24 (undergraduates) perceived higher levels of stress compared to other age groups. Besides, our results suggest that participants have a higher level of trust in traditional media compared to social media in relation to Covid-19 related information dissemination. We observed a significant correlation between infodemic and perceived stress; infodemic and lack of media trust. We believe Journal of Health Promotion and Behavior readers will find our research findings and recommendations useful.

We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sanni Shamsudeen Ademola

Senior Lecturer

Department of Computer Science (Information Science Cluster)

Faculty of Science and Engineering

University Of Eswatini Private Bag 4, Kwaluseni, Manzini Kingdom of Eswatini sanniadeo1@gmail.com; ssanni@uniswa.sz