

Review of: "Tobacco Use and Perceived Stress Among Male College Students in Bangalore, India"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

1. There were 85 (46.2%) current smokers and 98 (53.7%) nonsmokers, and their scores on the perceived stress scale were compared using analysis of variance and independent samples *t* tests - I would have recruited more participants to compensate for the lower number of smokers in the sample.
2. Introduction - Could explore the gateway theory; what about data on the severity of adverse mental health conditions on the frequency of smoking - this is only covered uni-directionally; what about the escalation from tobacco smoking - how fast does this arise?
3. Methodology - Why use the age group 18-22 only?
4. Participants who used other psychoactive substances along with tobacco on a daily basis were excluded from the study - Were there any other exclusion criteria?
5. It also included questions pertaining to the use of tobacco products besides cigarettes - such as?
6. Explain the scoring for the AUTOS scale - same for the PSS.
7. Normality not investigated prior to statistical analyses?
8. Why was the non-smoking group split for the analysis using a one-way ANOVA and not treated as one whole group at the start itself - Usually, the order of testing should have been reversed.
9. The data connecting the AUTOS and the PSS was interesting and well presented
10. Was the reliability of the instrument tested to start with?
11. If the frequency and the type of tobacco products were also examined, this could have been connected to the AUTOS and PSS rather than leaving this as an underlying variable.
12. I believe this study was a cross-sectional one; was the data collected during a period where the students were on holidays or having examinations?
13. For individuals at the higher end of the dependency spectrum, high levels of stress can also be associated with the direct physical health impacts of having used the substance for extended periods of time - this is still purely speculative.
14. In the present study, the group of smokers can also be considered fairly young and subsequently still at a very early stage towards dependency compared to adults who might have been using tobacco for decades - As mentioned above, the data could have been presented since it has been collected as per the instrument design listed.

