

## Critical Comment on Depression in Main Caregivers of Dementia Patients: Prevalence and Predictors

Sir,

This is in reference to the article entitled, “Depression in Main Caregivers of Dementia Patients: Prevalence and Predictors,” by Omranifard *et al.*<sup>[1]</sup>

The authors have done a commendable job in highlighting the issue of depression in main caregivers of dementia patients along with its prevalence and predictors. However, we have a few concerns related to the methodology being adopted in this study.

First, the authors have mentioned in the materials and methods section that a cross-sectional study was done using convenient sampling method. Further, they mention that “With statistical calculation, we needed 96 samples for this study.” How the sample size was calculated? What were the power estimate and the precision? In case the authors have used any free software and calculators available online for sample size calculation, it needs to be mentioned. It is not clear. In cross-sectional studies, the aim is to estimate the prevalence of unknown parameter(s) from the target population using a random sample. Hence, an adequate sample size is needed to estimate the population prevalence with a good precision.<sup>[2]</sup>

If the sample size is too small, the investigator may not be able to answer the study question. Time frame of the study is not mentioned, i.e., in how many days or months, all these 96 research participants were recruited by the authors? The questionnaires given to research participants (to fill) were given in English language (tool is in English language) or were they translated into their own language? What was the average time taken by all the research participants in filing the questionnaires? The authors have mentioned that inclusion and exclusion criteria were followed to choose the research participants, so if the sample size is 96, how many research participants were dropped out of study as a result of submitting incomplete questionnaire or as a result of known psychiatric illness or end-stage dangerous physical illnesses? If none of the research participants dropped out, it should have been clearly mentioned by the authors.

In the results section, the authors have written “However, we found other significant relationship when we used regression analysis using GLM model after controlling

other variables.” What are these “other variables?” This is not clear.

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Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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