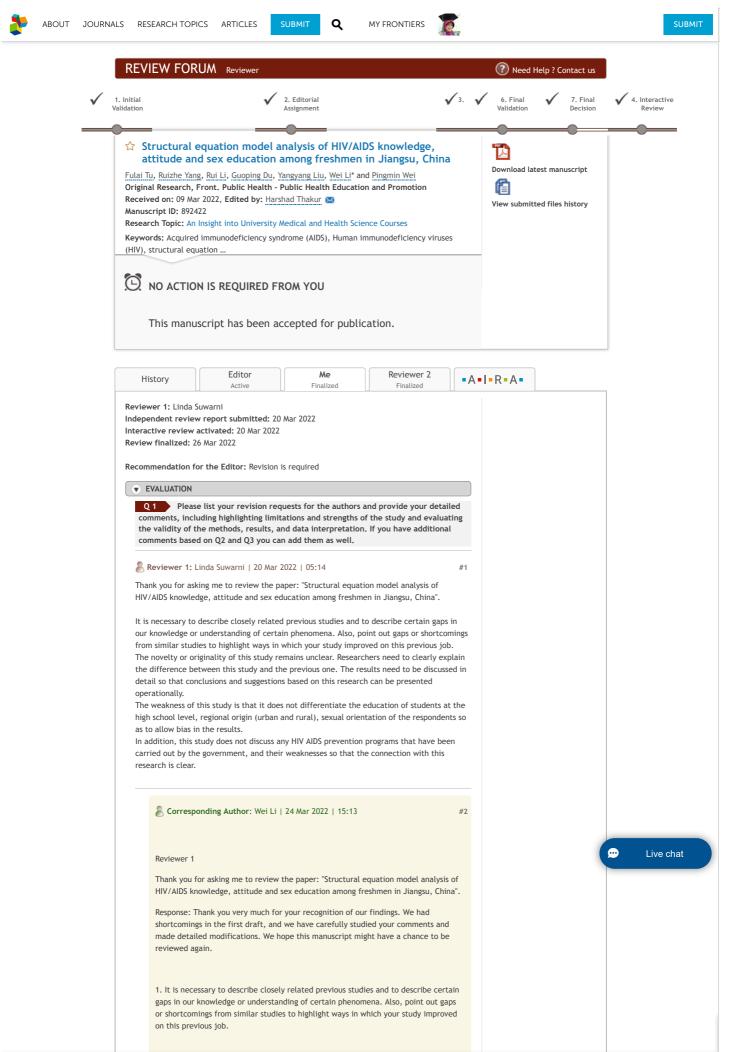
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practice among university students, previous studies on students' HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and behaviors among undergraduates university and college students, few studies have conducted HIV/AIDS-related KAP survey among freshmen".

2. The novelty or originality of this study remains unclear. Researchers need to clearly explain the difference between this study and the previous one.

Response: thank you for your comment, we have added the novelty of this study in the introduction section from lines 97 to 100: "we also analyzed factors affecting the overall awareness rate of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and explore the relationship between sex knowledge, attitudes and education. To our knowledge, this is the first study in a province-wide survey of a large sample".

3. The results need to be discussed in detail so that conclusions and suggestions based on this research can be presented operationally.

Response: thank you for your good suggestion, we have added detailed discussion of the results in the discussion section from lines 256 to 262: "In the current study, the awareness rate of AIDS did not differ by gender, schools, whether they are or not only child, parent education level, family monthly income, and residence style, this finding conflicts with some earlier researches. Future studies may wish to assess a wider range of influence factors to better understand which affects the awareness rate of AIDS. Previous studies have found positive correlations between HIV attitude and behavior. However, in current study

From lines 274 to 278: "These findings are supported by previous studies, this may be because of the openness of males' sexual viewpoints. HIV education services in Chinese colleges and universities should be designed and provided comprehensively taking into consideration the needs of male undergraduates."

From lines 317 to 321: "Many pieces of national policy of school-based health education programs on $\ensuremath{\mathsf{HIV/AIDS}}$ have been advocated for a long time in China. HIV/AIDS education was found effective in promoting positive behavior change related to HIV/AIDS prevention, while policy's ability to structure implementation was at a moderate level."

4. The weakness of this study is that it does not differentiate the education of students at the high school level, regional origin (urban and rural), sexual orientation of the respondents so as to allow bias in the results.

Response: thank you for your good comment, We listed this problem in the limitation section: "Thirdly, we did not investigate the education level of students in high school, but we believe that the region of students can reflect the education level of their high school, southern Jiangsu, central Jiangsu, and northern Jiangsu represents three levels of education high, medium, and low, respectively. Lastly, we did not investigate the regional origin (urban and rural), sexual orientation of the respondents, the bias may occur in the results".

5. In addition, this study does not discuss any HIV AIDS prevention programs that $\,$ have been carried out by the government, and their weaknesses so that the connection with this research is clear.

Response: thank you for your suggestion, we have added HIV/AIDS prevention programs that have been carried out in China in the discussion section from lines 317 to 321: "Many pieces of national policy of school-based health education programs on HIV/AIDS have been advocated for a long time in China. HIV/AIDS education was found effective in promoting positive behavior change related to HIV/AIDS prevention, while policy's ability to structure implementation was at a moderate level".

Review supporting file - 276941

Q 2 Check List



Reviewer 1: Linda Suwarni | 20 Mar 2022 | 05:14

a. Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

b. Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

c. Are the statistical methods valid and correctly applied? (e.g. sample size, choice of test)

d. Is a statistician required to evaluate this study?

Yes

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