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- Mashura Shammi (Via FrontiersIn) Action needed: Your r... 7/15/2022 Dear Dr Naibaho, I am c... Inbox
- Mashura Shammi (Via FrontiersIn) Action needed: Your r... 7/14/2022 Dear Dr Naibaho, I am c... Inbox
- Frontiers in Public Health Editorial... Action needed: Your ne... 6/3/2022 Dear Dr Naibaho, Thank... Inbox

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- Public Health Production Office Frontiers Article Publi... 8/17/2022

Action needed: Your response to authors - 948955

LN Lamhot Naibaho
Dear Mashura Shammi, I had completed my review. Thank you i... Fri 7/15/2022 3:11 PM

MS Mashura Shammi (Via FrontiersIn) <noreply@frontiersin.org>
To: Lamhot Naibaho Fri 7/15/2022 2:49 PM

Dear Dr Naibaho,

I am contacting you as a reminder that the authors of the manuscript "Association of family well-being with forwarding and verifying COVID-19 related information, and mediation of family communication quality" have recently responded in the review forum. If you think that the authors' replies have addressed your comments and concerns satisfactorily, please click on "Endorse publication".

If you think that your concerns were not sufficiently addressed, please let the authors know by posting further comments. Alternatively, should you not think that the manuscript can be adequately revised or should you not wish to take further part in the discussion, please click on "Withdraw from review" or "Recommend rejection".

Please take action in the discussion forum in the next few days. The forum is designed to allow more than one round of comments and replies, where appropriate, and comments are visible to all participants.

To view the manuscript and respond to the authors, please click on the following link:
<https://review.frontiersin.org/review/bootstrap/2b71d001-21a8-44d6-90ef-7a9cf0a7a603>

Thank you very much for your expert contribution to the review of this manuscript. Please contact the editorial office if you need additional time to address the authors' responses.

With best regards,

Mashura Shammi
Associate Editor, Frontiers in Public Health
<https://www.frontiersin.org/>

Manuscript title: Association of family well-being with forwarding and verifying COVID-19 related information, and mediation of family communication quality
Manuscript ID: 948955
Journal: Frontiers in Public Health, section Digital Public Health
Article type: Brief Research Report
Authors: Bonny Yee-Man Wong, Sai Yin Ho, Shirley Man Man Sit, Wei Jie Gong, Agnes Yuen Kwan Lai, Man Ping Wang and Tai-Hing Lam

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Association of family well-being with forwarding and verifying COVID-19 related information, and mediation of family communication quality

Bonny Yee-Man Wong, Sai Yin Ho, Shirley Man Man Sit, Wei Jie Gong, Agnes Yuen Kwan Lai, Man Ping Wang* and Tai-Hing Lam

Brief Research Report, Front. Public Health - Digital Public Health

Received on: 20 May 2022, Edited by: Mashura Shammi

Manuscript ID: 948955

Research Topic: Challenges of Maternal and Child Health after the COVID-19 Pandemic

Keywords: COVID-19, Information sharing, Fact-check, Information overload, misinformation, family well-being



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NO ACTION IS REQUIRED FROM YOU

This manuscript has been accepted for publication.

History

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Reviewer 1

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Me

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Reviewer 5: Lamhot Naibaho

Independent review report submitted: 03 Jun 2022

Interactive review activated: 04 Jun 2022

Review finalized: 15 Jul 2022

Initial recommendation to the Editor: Minor revision is required

Note to the Editor (NOT visible to the authors):

I will be open to assessing the response from the Author.

EVALUATION

Q 1 Please list your revision requests for the authors and provide your detailed comments, including highlighting limitations and strengths of the study and evaluating the validity of the methods, results, and data interpretation. If you have additional comments based on Q2 and Q3 you can add them as well.

Reviewer 5: Lamhot Naibaho | 03 Jun 2022 | 02:08 #1

1. Abstract:

1a. The abstract should be completed with a clear brief method, then it needs to be clearly stated the research instrument used in collecting the research data.

2b. At the part of conclusion: The researcher should not copy the information from the conclusion at the end of the manuscript, it should be stated in different style but contain the same message (should be elaborated)

2. Introduction: The introduction, should be sharpened.

2a. The GAB between reality and expectation is not clearly stated, the GAB presented in the introduction should lead the researchers to the formulation of the problem and objective of the conducted study.

2b. The information on the novelty of the study is not yet well stated (compare your studies to previously conducted studies and mention what is novel in your studies, so we can see that this is urgent to be studied)

3. Materials and Method:

3a. The method needs to be described clearly, it is clearly stated that it is a survey, but does not clearly explain the instrument of the study used (although the researcher had clearly shown the questions asked to the respondents). It should be stated clearly the instrument used was a questionnaire or interview sheet, then it should be explained clearly.

3b. In the "2.2.2 Dependent Variables" sessions, it is stated that there are 3 questions that were asked to the respondents, but in the elaboration, there are only two questions mentioned.



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the sentences that build the paragraph will not stand alone.
 6. Conclusion: The information in the conclusion is copied directly from the result, and discussion, and also repeated in the abstract, if possible please write them down by not copying or repeating information.

Submitting Author: Bonny Yee-Man Wong | 10 Jul 2022 | 14:21 #2

Thanks for your comments. Please find our responses in the attached pdf. Our responses to your comments are in *Italic* with our manuscript text in quotation marks and revision highlighted in yellow.

[Review supporting file - 340334](#)

Reviewer 5: Lamhot Naibaho | 15 Jul 2022 | 08:09 #3

All is oke and had been revised according to my previous comments.

Q 2 Check List

Reviewer 5: Lamhot Naibaho | 03 Jun 2022 | 02:08 #1

- a. Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?
- Yes
- b. Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?
- Yes
- c. Are the statistical methods valid and correctly applied? (e.g. sample size, choice of test)
- Yes
- d. Is a statistician required to evaluate this study?
- Yes
- e. Are the methods sufficiently documented to allow replication studies?
- No

Submitting Author: Bonny Yee-Man Wong | 10 Jul 2022 | 14:31 #2

d.

Submitting Author: Bonny Yee-Man Wong | 10 Jul 2022 | 14:42 #3

d. We have also done some sensitivity analyses with various cutoffs of verifying and forwarding variables. All results were consistent with the same conclusions. For the ease of interpretation, we have added the results with half the time (score=5) as the cutoff point in the supplementary tables.

In statistical analyses (line 158-161), we have also added "To test the robustness of results, the analyses were repeated with re-categorisation of forwarding and verification of COVID-19-related information [less than half the time (score <5) vs half the time or more (score ≥ 5)]. "

In results section (line 197-203), we have briefly described the updated results as follows:

"The results of the robustness analysis are shown in supplementary table 1; similar results were obtained after re-categorising the forwarding and verifying of COVID-19-related information. The forwarding of COVID-19 information >50% of the time was associated with greater family well-being [2.96 (2.59, 3.33), P<0.001]. The corresponding figure for verifying such information was 1.62 (1.05, 2.19), P<0.001. Similarly, supplementary table 2 shows that the 91.2% and 82.8% of the total effect of forwarding and verifying COVID-19-related information on family well-being was mediated by the quality of family communication."

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 3 Rigor

Q 4 Quality of the writing



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Association of family well-being with forwarding and verifying COVID-19 related information, and mediation of family communication quality

Bonny Yee-Man Wong^{1, 2}, Sai Yin Ho², Shirley M. Sit², Wei Jie Gong², Agnes Y. Lai², Man Ping Wang^{2*}, Tai-Hing Lam²

¹Hong Kong Metropolitan University, China, ²The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, SAR China

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Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest

Author contribution statement

BW: data curation, project administration, formal analysis and writing—original draft. SS and GW: writing—review and editing. AL: conceptualization and writing—review and editing. SH, MW and TL: supervision, conceptualization, and writing—review and editing. All authors participated in the critical review of this study and provided final approval for publication submission.

Keywords

COVID-19, Information sharing, Fact-check, Information overload, misinformation, family well-being

Abstract

Word count: 249

Objective: We assessed the associations of family well-being with verifying and subsequently forwarding COVID-19-related information to family members and the mediating effect of the quality of family communication on these associations among Chinese adults in Hong Kong.

Methods: Under the Jockey Club SMART Family-Link Project, we conducted an online population-based survey, using Family Well-being Scale and questions related to family communication quality and forwarding and verifying COVID-19 information. Data were collected from 4891 adults in May 2020. Prevalence estimates of forwarding and verifying COVID-19 information were weighted by sex, age, and education of the general population, and their associations with family well-being (ranged 0-10) were analysed using generalised linear models with mutual adjustment. Their interactive effects on family well-being and the mediating effects of family communication quality were examined.

Results: 53.9% of respondents usually/always forwarded COVID-19 information-related to their family, 68.7% usually/always verified it before forwarding, and 40.9% did both. Greater family well-being was associated with usually/always forwarding (adjusted B [95% CI]: 0.82 [0.72-0.92]) and usually/always verifying (0.43 [0.32-0.55]) (both $P < 0.001$) the information. Forwarding and verifying such information showed an additive effect on family well-being (1.25 [1.11-1.40]). Family communication quality mediated the associations of family well-being with forwarding (83.7%) and verifying (86.6%) COVID-19-related information.

Conclusion: Forwarding COVID-19 information to family, verifying such information, and especially doing both, were associated with greater family well-being, being strongly mediated by the quality of family communication. Individuals should be encouraged to verify COVID-19-related information before forwarding to family members amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contribution to the field

In COVID-19 pandemic, misinformation and information overload were consistently associated with psychology distress. Advances in information and communication technologies allow individuals to have easy access to COVID-19 information and forward it easily to others. Forwarding unverified information could amplify these problems and family well-being. We present the analysis of an online population-based survey with responses of 4,891 Chinese adults aged 18 years or above. Our study is the first to show that 53.9% always forwarded COVID-19 information to family, 68.7% always verified it before forwarding, and 40.9% did both. Greater family well-being was associated with always forwarding and always verifying, especially doing both. Family communication quality mediated the associations of family well-being with forwarding and verifying COVID-19 information. Despite the additive effect of forwarding and verifying such information on family well-being, only 40.9% did both. Urgent needs to educate people to verify and forward reliable COVID-19 information to family members could promote family communication and family well-being amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Ethics statements

Studies involving animal subjects

Generated Statement: No animal studies are presented in this manuscript.

Studies involving human subjects

Generated Statement: The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by Institutional Review Board of the University of Hong Kong/Hospital Authority Hong Kong West Cluster & Ref. no: UW 20-238 . The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

Inclusion of identifiable human data

Generated Statement: No potentially identifiable human images or data is presented in this study.

In review

Data availability statement

Generated Statement: The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

In review

Association of family well-being with forwarding and verifying COVID-19 related information, and mediation of family communication quality

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10 Keywords: information sharing, fact-check, information overload, misinformation, family well-being,
11 COVID-19

12 Abstract

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