

Reviewer-1

Yes. Understanding empathy among students is important as it may be useful for predicting career success, burnout, and other facets of professional development in the health professions.

Consider including study design in the title: “A Cross-sectional Study of Empathy Among College Students in Helping Profession Degree Programs”

Study design is included in abstract.

References are proper, recent, and sufficient. Older references are used, but these represent foundational works.

Suggestions for article:

- Consider including type of study design in the title: “A Cross-sectional Study of Empathy Among College Students in Helping Profession Degree Programs”. The study design is included in abstract, so STROBE guidelines met.
- Study design not identified in methods
- Biases not mentioned or addressed. Author should address biases.
- Missingness in data not mentioned. All respondents answered all questions completely?
- Number of participants in study should be compared to number of students in programs. Did 100% of students in each program participate? If not, there may be differences in program participation indicating potential bias.
- Page 4, background on IRI can be more concise.
- Page 5, background on previous research can be more concise to highlight findings.