

## **Response to Reviewer -1**

The title accurately reflects the article's core, highlighting both the specific focus on Africa's seafaring community and the broader effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a more succinct title could improve clarity.

**Title has been modified as below. “ The Socio-economic Impact of Covid-19 on the Seafaring Community: The Case of the ‘minority group’ in Shipping”**

The abstract provides a good overview of the study's objectives, methodology, and key findings. It outlines the challenges faced by African seafarers and the need for policy interventions. However, it could benefit from a clearer statement of the study's implications and recommendations, which would provide readers with a better understanding of the significance of the findings.

**The section has been modified**

The English quality of the manuscript is suitable for scholarly communication. However, there are a few instances of complex sentence structures and grammatical errors that could be revised for clarity and readability

**The paper language quality has been reviewed and modified**

- Introduction: The introduction effectively contextualizes the issue but could be strengthened by a clearer outline of the study's objectives.

**No changes have been made here**

- Materials and Methods: This section is well-structured, detailing the mixed-methods approach.

**No changes have been made here as it was not required**

- Results: The results are presented clearly, but graphical representations could be better integrated with the text to facilitate understanding.

**No changes have been made here.**

- Discussion: The discussion adeptly connects findings to broader themes but could elaborate more on the implications for future research and policy.

**A statement for further research has been added**

- Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes key points but could reiterate the urgency of the proposed recommendations.

A rehash of the recommendations has been made in conclusion

There do not appear to be any overt ethical issues in the manuscript.

**No comment as consent was obtained**

## **Response to reviewer-2**

This article is great for the scientific community because it's based on the scientific method. My only concern is its suitability for this Journal of Social Work and Welfare Policy. It appears this study/manuscript will best suit a journal that focuses on Maritime and other sea and ocean related issues.

**Concerning suitability, the idea of choice of journal was to bring the issues of sailors to a broader audience and not necessarily the narrow group of maritime**

it was void of any grammatical error. The paper was well organized. I however did not know the writing style the author used in formatting the paper. I am familiar with APA style writing. However, this paper wasn't formatted in APA style.

**Numerical style as per the article guidelines**