**Manuscript evaluation guidelines**  
  
Title: The impact of an educational program by using group discussion on perceived stigma among the family caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease  
  
  
1. Importance of the paper  
  
           Does it address issues relevant to the fields of bioethics and medical ethics in the developing countries?

*The Paper does not address any issues relevant to the field of bioethics or medical ethics. It discusses a scale and intervention for stigma specific to a condition.*   
  
2. Is it topical?  
  
           Is the issue discussed from another country's/culture perspective?  
  
           Will it influence practice or policy?  
  
           Is it too specialized for the journal?  
*The issue is discussed in the context of Iran and in my view this can impact practice but not policy. This article does not fall into the purview of IJME as it does not discuss ethics related to the intervention or the moral challenges faced.*   
3. Originality  
  
           Is the information /comment new?

Is there any likelihood of plagiarism?  
*There are similar interventions similar to the current paper which have been used for other neurological conditions requiring long term care for coping mechanisms. Intervention to reduced stigma is something which has not been dealt much in such conditions.*

*Checked with some of the cross-references and the probability of plagiarism is almost nil.*   
  
4. Conclusions  
           Is the interpretation warranted, unwarranted, well developed?  
  
           Does the article contain loose generalisations?  
  
           Are there any important omissions?

*Have discussed these things in detail below but to summarise it, the discussions and conclusion are not in tune with the objectives.*   
  
  
5. Other comments  
*The manuscript needs copy editing. There are grammatical and spelling mistakes*

***Methods***

*Under Section Study design please specify the month when the study was conducted. Summer may not be the same in different parts of the world as Iran. If possible, provide a justification for conducting a non-randomized controlled trial.*

*Inclusion and Exclusion criteria have been mentioned in the Section “Setting and sample”. Can delete inclusion/exclusion criteria and ethics clearance from flow chart, its repetition of what is mentioned in the text. It makes the flow chart too crowded.*

*Sample size estimation needs to be mentioned clearly. Sample size formula is mentioned but need to clearly mention the values that go into the formula and from where it comes. Not the link or reference to the article but for example in terms of prevalence of stigma or prevalence of*

*Need to clearly mention about original purpose of SIS and reasons for it to be modified. Liu et al used the modified SIS for all cases of Dementia but here it is mentioned as used for Alzheimers. Modified SIS was used in patients with Alzheimers dementia and Parkisnsons disease by Sandy Burgener and Barbara Berger. This adapted scale was used by Liu which is mentioned in the paper.*

*Second paragraph under “Instruments” the reference for SIS scale no (13) does not mention the scale. Please add the correct reference.*

*Mention details of how the intervention was designed. Was it done with the help of experts or adapted from a different program.*

*In the section “Data analysis” please mentioned the purpose of each test and not just their names.*

***Results***

*Revisit the statistical analysis. It is not required to mention p-value for every value mentioned in the paper. Refer ASA article on p-values* [*https://amstat.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00031305.2016.1154108*](https://amstat.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00031305.2016.1154108) *and IJME’s editorial on p-value* [*http://ijme.in/articles/the-science-in-the-p-value-need-for-a-rethinking/?galley=html*](http://ijme.in/articles/the-science-in-the-p-value-need-for-a-rethinking/?galley=html)

*Groups in the second table is labelled as experimental for both groups. Give the range of the values under each score.*

*In the text explain the results of the test scores, the mean values and the range. You are directly jumping to the tests. The reader has to know the average scores in each of the groups and points in time.*

*Please specify what is the type of the repeat measure ANOVA that has been used. Is it two way ANOVA or mixed ANOVA. Also mention the result of within-subject factor.*

*Use numbers from the data to substantiate claims when you are describing the effect of the intervention.*

*There are ways of reporting statistical tests. It would be useful to look up some formats for reporting statistical tests.*

*Discussion*

*The aim of the entire paper is to find out the effect on an intervention on perceived stigma among family caregivers. There is no measure that captures the stress of the caregivers, but the discussion is mainly talking about the stress and strain of the caregivers and psychological intervention for stress relief. I dont see the main component i.e stigma being discussed here.*

*Figure*

*Please format the image. It is directly pasted from SPSS and that is not acceptable.*

6. Recommendation  
  
 Accept as is  
  
 Accept with modifications (specify)  
  
 - style

- substance

*Reject the paper for two reasons*

1. *It doesn't not fall into the scope of IJME*
2. *The results, discussion and conclusion section need major reworking as has been indicted in the review*  
     
     
     
   7. Separate comments for the author

*The observations made in the “other comments” section can be shared with the researchers to enable them to rework on the paper and submit to another journal.*

Please let us know whether you would like your name to be published as a reviewer of the manuscript.

I would prefer it to be anonymous

This is optional.