

Reviewer A

Comment 1: The paper is a bit too long. Suggest shortening the introduction, and consider removing duplications in section 3 (challenges during COVID-19) and section 5 (challenges faced in managing haemoglobinopathies)

Reply 1: *Thank you for the comment, the manuscript revised completely, removed duplications, and decreased the length.*

Changes in the Text 1: *Throughout the manuscript*

Comment 2. Paragraph 3.1.6 makes some general comments regarding inappropriate transfusion practices but is not referenced. Suggest either add references to this, or rephrase the paragraph to discuss, for example, lack of transfusion medicine specialists or training in transfusion practice or patient blood management.

Reply 2: *The suggested line has been rephrased*

Changes in the Text 2: *'This is due to a lack of expertise in transfusion medicine and lack of transfusion undergraduate and post-graduate education and training.'*

Comment 3. The manuscript would benefit from a thorough proof-read for English and typographical errors. A few examples - line 88 'lakh' not in general English use; line 104 the numbers quoted appear to have apostrophes in the wrong places (or are missing digits).

Reply 3: *the English has been revised throughout the manuscript. The desired changes have been done. Word "lakh" as well as the position of apostrophes have been edited to match the international style of writing*

Changes in the Text 3: *Line 88 and Line 104*

Comment 4. Please clarify what 'scheduled tribes' and 'scheduled castes' are for an international reader

Reply 4: *Clarification provided*

Changes in the Text 4: *'HbS is more common in tribes, communities, and sub-communities found in specific parts of the country with a prevalence of 5-35%'*

Reviewer B

Comment 5: The manuscript contains a lot of information from prevalence, challenges and difficulties encountered and the mitigating measures. However, I would expect a more description of the problems faced by India. For example, in 5.6. the authors described that a significant drop in blood and components in US and other countries, I would expect that the description of problems faced in India should be listed out instead of a single sentence as "Similar trends were reported from blood centers in India (27).

Reply 4: *Descriptions about the problem faced in Indian health centres during COVID-19 pandemic has been added in manuscript.*

Changes in the Text 4:

Comment 6: In 5.4, I do not quite understand the meaning of the paragraph.

Reply 6: *Paragraph has been changed*

Changes in the Text 6:

Comment 7: Overall, I would suggest the authors to rewrite some of the paragraphs, by first listing out the problems encountered, with more detailed description what have been seen, preferably with some data and then a comparison of what have been encountered in other part of the world.

Reply 7: *Thank you for the highlighting the same, complete manuscript has been revised as per suggestions.*

Changes in the Text 7:

Reviewer C

Comment 8: The paper to be reviewed has an adequate introduction, justification of the contents to be studied as well as the results. It is essential for the publication of this article to have a methodology section where the method used to arrive at the results offered is explained.

Reply 8: *Thank you for the comment as this is a review article about the situation faced in India during COVID-19 pandemic, so we have not added any methodology in review article.*

Changes in the Text 8: *None'*

Reviewer D

There are a lot of edits that I have made (see attached). I think the focus here should be on the topic of interest, and hence I tried to do some editing and suggestions:

Thank you for the edits and suggestions, indeed they have brought more clarity to the manuscript

Comment 1: The paper required some focused flow of the content on India and the impact of COVID on patients with hemoglobin disorders in India. Few sentences had to be moved around as they fit in the paper's broader introductory part.

Reply 1: *Thank you for the suggestion, complete manuscript has been revised as per suggestions.*

Comment 2: References will need to be corrected based on the changes that were made.

Reply 2: *references rearranged as per required by the journal*

Comment 3: Reference style needs to be checked. I picked a few references that were for sure not meeting the journal style.

Reply 3: *references arranged as per the requirement*

Comment 4: I made a suggestion to merge 2 tables and an edit to the figure. Again, our focus here is on India. Discussing challenges faced by blood banks worldwide is beyond the scope of this paper.

Reply 4: *thank you for the suggestion, we have merged both the tables and made into one*

Comment 5: I agree with the reviewer's comment that the paper requires English proofreading. While I tried to do as much as I can, I am sure more edits will be needed.

Reply 5: *thank you for highlighting the same, we have worked on the English proof reading and edited the article. We hope that the new version of the article will be as per the required standards in English writing.*