

## Annexure 1

The criteria for the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool (Laher & Hassem, 2020).

**1. Was there a clear statement of the aims of the research?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: What was the goal of the research? Why it was thought important? Its relevance

**2. Is a quantitative methodology appropriate?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If the research seeks to examine a relationship between variables or comparison of groups. Is quantitative research the right methodology for addressing the research goal?

Is it worth continuing?

**Detailed questions:**

**3. Was the research design appropriate to address the aims of the research?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If the researcher has justified the research design (e.g., have they discussed how they decided which method to use)?

**4. Was the recruitment strategy appropriate to the aims of the research? (Assess selection bias)**  
Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If the researcher has explained how the participants were selected, are the individuals selected to participate in this study likely to be representative of the target population? If there are any discussions around recruitment (e.g., why some people chose not to take part)

**5. Was the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If the setting for data collection was justified. If it is clear how data were collected. Were data collection tools shown to be valid? Were data collection tools shown to be reliable? If methods were modified during the study. If so, has the researcher explained how and why?

**6. Were the research methods justified by the researcher?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If the researcher has justified the methods chosen. If the researcher has made the methods explicit.

**7. Have ethical issues been taken into consideration?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If there are sufficient details of how the research was explained to participants for the reader to assess whether ethical standards were maintained. If the researcher has discussed issues raised by the study (e.g., issues around informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality or how they have handled the effects of the study on the participants during and after the study). If approval has been sought from the ethics committee

**8. Was the correct statistical technique used to analyse the data?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: Was descriptive data provided? Was the sample size large enough for the statistical technique carried out? Were basic assumptions of the statistical test utilised met? Were both significant and insignificant results reported? Did the statistical technique used effectively answer the research question?

**9. Was the data analysis sufficiently rigorous?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If there is an in-depth description of the analysis process. Were the statistical methods appropriate for the study design? If sufficient data are presented to support the findings? To what extent contradictory data are taken into account? Were potential sources of bias discussed?

**10. Were psychometric properties discussed?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: Were reliability and validity of the instruments used discussed or analysed

**11. Is there a clear statement of findings?** Yes Can't tell No

Consider: If the findings are explicit. If there is adequate discussion of the evidence both for and against the researchers' arguments. If the findings are discussed in relation to the original research question.