Author's response to reviews

Title: Breastfeeding attitudes of Finnish mothers and fathers during pregnancy

Authors:

Sari Laanterä (laantera@hytti.uku.fi)
Anna-Maija Pietilä (anna-maija.pietila@uef.fi)
Anette Ekström (anette.ekstrom@his.se)
Tarja Pölkki (tarja.polkki@nic.fi)

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UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

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Associate Editor
Anne Merewood

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for the valuable comments and suggestions concerning our manuscript entitled “Breastfeeding attitudes of Finnish parents during pregnancy” (MS: 1337778417354656). We have taken into account all comments and suggestions, which have been important in improving our paper. A point-by-point response to the comments is appended to this cover letter.

Yours sincerely,

on behalf of all authors

Sari Laanterä (corresponding author)
University of Eastern Finland, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing Science
PO Box 1627, FI-70211, Kuopio, Finland
E-mail: laantera@hytti.uku.fi
Anna-Maija Pietilä, PhD, Professor

Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, Social and Health Care Center of Kuopio

PO Box 1627, FI-70211, Kuopio, Finland

E-mail: anna-maija.pietila@uef.fi

Anette Ekstöm, PhD, Senior Lecturer

School of Life Sciences, University of Skövde, PO Box 408, SE-54128 Skövde, Sweden

E-mail: anette.ekstrom@his.se

Tarja Pölkki, PhD, Adjunct Professor

Institute of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oulu, PO Box 5000, FI-90014 University of Oulu, Finland

E-mail: tarja.polkki@nic.fi
Response to the comments

Detailed comments by Donna Chapman

1. Comment:
Page 5, (The breastfeeding rates decrease rapidly...) This reference, which appears to include small amounts of water, in the definition of EBF is not something I can read. If Finland public health officials define EBF to include small amounts of water, then it would be clearer to say "which in Finland means that the child receives....). This is important, because your definition of EBF is not a standard definition.

Answer:
We have added “in Finland” as suggested; now on page 6, paragraph 1 in the revised version

2. Comment:
Page 8, paragraph describing Table 1 Recommend moving this to the results section.

Answer:
We have moved the paragraph that described the results of factor analysis to the results section; now on page 10, paragraph 2. Table 1, which describes the items of the factors, has been renamed Table 2.

3. Comment:
Page 9 (last 5 lines) and throughout text where you use "primiparas" and "multiparas" These are not standard uses of these terms. Recommend that you use something like "pregnant nulliparous" to describe women who had no children. Those with children could be described as "women with children" or something like that. Were all survey data collected prior to delivery? Your abstract would be misunderstood if you do not clarify and use the standard terms.

Answer:
All data were collected prior to delivery. In the abstract, the purpose of the study is expressed as follows “The purpose of this study was to describe Finnish parents’ prenatal breastfeeding attitudes and their relationships with demographic characteristics”. We think that the term “prenatal” helps readers understand that this study focuses on the families who are expecting a child. In addition, the title “Breastfeeding attitudes of Finnish parents during pregnancy” confirms that the study focuses on prenatal attitudes.

We have used the terms “parents who were expecting their first child” instead of primiparas. The term “pregnant nulliparous” was thought to be difficult to use because 49 males were included in the study. Therefore, we could not use the suggested term “women with children” instead of multiparas. We have removed, however, the term “multiparas” and replaced it with the terms “parents who had at least one child” or “respondents who had at least one child”. In addition, we have consulted a native English speaking scientific editor in the use of these terms.
4. Comment:
Page 11
Which allowed specific information to be inferred" is too vague. Please add 1-2 sentences highlighting the main findings.

Answer:
We have added to the discussion a sentence that describes the main findings; now on page 12, paragraph 1.

5. Comment:
Table 1
Please insert a footnote indicating that the alpha refers to the Cronbach's alpha.

Answer:
Table 1 has been renamed Table 2. We have inserted a footnote as suggested; now on page 23.
Detailed comments by Maryelena Vargas

1. Comment:
Page 10
From a total (n= 172) exactly ?Every third respondent regarded it inappropriate to breastfeed a one-year-old child in a hamburger bar??

Is there a difference between hamburger bar and fast food restaurant in Finland?

This is a clearer sentence and it states the same thing: ?The majority of the respondents regarded breastfeeding at home or in a public place as appropriate, but 33% of the respondents did not regard public breastfeeding of a one-year old child at a fast food restaurant as acceptable?.

Answer:
We have added the total number of respondents to the sentence; now on page 11, paragraph 1. The term “hamburger restaurant” has been used through the manuscript; now on page 11, paragraph 1 and on page 12, paragraph 2.

2. Comment:
Both the fathers and the mothers set great store by breastfeeding and nearly all mothers intended to breastfeed

both the fathers and the mothers valued breastfeeding and nearly all mothers intended to breastfeed.

Answer:
We have now used the term “valued” instead of the term “set great store by”; now on page 12, paragraph 1.
Detailed comments of Associate Editor

1. Comment:
Please make sure the authors respond to the questions raised by Reviewers 1 and 2 as this is not quite there yet. (Note - in this original request for a review I did not have access to these responses but I did in the more recent request)

Answer:
We have responded to the all comments of reviewers 1 and 2.

2. Comment:
I particularly agree with Reviewer 1 that the English is still not clear. It appears the authors have consulted a native English speaker but from my reading of the MS this native English speaker is not a scientist. They need a native English speaking scientific editor.

Answer:
A senior editor who has biological and medical background has proofread this revised manuscript.

3. Comment:
The title for example is not scientific standard English. The title really is no good....

Answer:
We have changed the title to “Breastfeeding attitudes of Finnish parents during pregnancy”.

4. Comment:
For example, the 1st 2 sentences of the Abstract are just not well written. "Little information exists on the prenatal breastfeeding attitudes of parents and demographic differences" The way this is written, it actually means, "Little information exists on the prenatal breastfeeding attitudes of parents and little information exists on the prenatal attitudes of demographic differences" which is nonsensical.

Answer:
We have omitted “and demographic differences” thus the sentence would be clearer; now the first sentence of the Abstract.

5. Comment:
Similarly in the Results section of the Abstract, "Breastfeeding attitudes differed when parity, gender, education, age, breastfeeding history and level of breastfeeding knowledge were considered." does not make much sense. Do they mean the level of significance changed when other factors were controlled for?

Answer:
We have specified the sentence: “The mean rank values of breastfeeding attitudes differed significantly when parity, gender, education, age, breastfeeding history and level of breastfeeding knowledge were considered.” Now in the results section of the abstract.
Editorial requests

1. Comment:
We require you to copyedit the paper to further improve the style of written English.

Answer:
A senior editor who has a medical and biological background has proofread the revised manuscript.

2. Comment:
Please specify the full name of the review board or committee that granted ethical approval for this study.

Answer:
The medical director of Mikkeli city and the director of the public health service of Kouvola city have made the decisions about ethical permissions. The data collection was implemented in those areas. We have added the names of the cities to the manuscript; now on page 9, paragraph 2. According to the legislation of Finland, this kind of study (anonymous data) does not need ethical approval from an ethical committee.