Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with breastfeeding cessation in nursing mothers in a peer support programme in Eastern Lancashire

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Bucceri

Re: Response to comments
MS: 1629835677236266 - Factors associated with breastfeeding cessation in nursing mothers in a peer support programme in Eastern Lancashire

We are very grateful to the reviewers for their constructive critique of our manuscript. We have given serious considerations to their comments and have made significant revisions to the structure and content of the paper which addressed the concerns raised by the reviewers.

Response relating to Reviewer Ann DiGirolamo’s comments
1. The objectives of the study have been clarified and the discussions focused on these. We accepted that the study design was not appropriate for discussions relating to the effectiveness of this peer support programme and the relevant sections have amended accordingly. The rationale for selecting the factors considered in the study was also stated.

2. Regarding Table 4 in the previous manuscript, the data presented was intended to describe infant feeding methods up to 6 month to provide a better understanding of the wider infant feeding practices and not only the duration of breastfeeding. The description of this table has been improved for the purpose.

3. Grammatical errors have been corrected and additional sub-headings have also been provided for result section
4. Statistics has been reviewed by a statistician and adjudged to be acceptable for this type of study and we acknowledge that in the acknowledgement section of the manuscript.

5. The discussion has been revised into a more coherent and focused piece reflecting the objectives of the study.

Response relating to Reviewer Yun Zhao’s comments
The reviewer pointed out that the various types of breastfeeding were not defined/identified in the manuscript. This has been done using the WHO classification. We also corrected the discrepancy between the duration of breastfeeding relating to 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 4\textsuperscript{th} and 6\textsuperscript{th} born babies in Table 2 and the description provided in the text.

Response relating to Reviewer Jane Scott’s comments
1. The reviewer suggested discretionary revision relating to the description of the association between breastfeeding cessation and ethnicity. We decided not to revise it because we felt it will make the description more difficult and unclear. The format we used is an acceptable alternative to what was suggested.

2. The ranges in the brackets have been clarified to indicate they denote 95% confidence interval in both the tables and the text. Additional corrections were made to the number of decimal places to which the p values were reported i.e. up to 4 decimal places in all cases.

3. The introduction have also been revised to de-emphasise the significant of the impact Little Angels support had on the improvement in breastfeeding initiation. Their main aim at the time was to increase breastfeeding duration and that was rightly emphasised.

4. In the discussion we accepted that the study was not designed to show the effectiveness of the programme but to show the effects of the factors studied. The relevant session was amended accordingly. Grammatical errors relating the use of word ‘data’ have also been corrected.

5. The statistics was clarified and was accepted as a sound method for dealing with censored data.

Please let us know if you require any further clarification or information. Many thanks for this opportunity.
Yours sincerely,

Dr Arpana Verma and Dr Gabriel Agboado.