Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender difference in suicidal expressions and it's determinants among young people in Cambodia, a post-conflict country.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Rhona Morris,

RE: MS: 3826681944488819
Gender difference in suicidal expressions and it's determinants among young people in Cambodia, a post-conflict country

We are pleased to resubmit our paper after language revision by professional copy-editors.

Please, refer below to our response to comments from reviewers

Yours sincerely

Gunnar Kullgren
Response to reviewer 1: (Mr. Zoltan Rihmer)

Thanks very much for your review and the appreciative remarks.

We agree to your suggestion about improving/ correcting the sentence relating to “gender difference”.

We appreciate your question relating to suicide rate and psychiatric morbidity in Cambodia. To our knowledge there are no published studies on the above. Most of the studies are among the refugee population in other countries (1). Most of the data available are from project reports from various government and non-governmental organizations, that too among high-risk groups such as street-children, homeless youth etc. In this background, unfortunately, we are not in a position to give authentic information in our write-up.

Yes, we do agree that the exposure to suicidal behavior among family members (1st and 2nd degree relatives) is important. This has been mentioned in tables 4 and 6. But we admit that we did not look into the closeness of the relatives (1st and 2nd degree), as the instrument (ATTS) does not provide scope for this.


Response to reviewer 2: (Mr. Maurizio Pompili)

Thanks very much for your review and the suggestions to improve the paper.

We have spruce-up the English language with the help of professional language editors from International Science Editing, Ireland as per your suggestion.

On the issue of usage of ‘suicidal expression (nomenclature)

We agree with there is lack of clarity, overlap in the nomenclature relating to suicide and attempted suicide since the era of Sir Thomas Browne who coined the word suicide in the year 1642 (1). There has been many attempts to address this issue by the scholars in the field of suicidology, with mixed results (2, 3, 4). We consider life-weariness, death wishes and suicidal ideation pertain to cognitive domain and therefore preferred not to use the term suicidal behavior. In our article we have used the ‘suicidal expressions’ to denote all suicidal phenomena (including attempt) other than completed suicide, like other published studies using ATTS (5, 6, 7).

We are open to suggestion and we hope more clarity will emerge in the nomenclature relating to suicide and related phenomena in course of time.


