Author's response to reviews

Title: The Association Between Social Relationships and Self-Harm: A Case-control Study in Taiwan

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Emmelkamp

We appreciate your assistance in processing our manuscript. We are glad to present our response to the Reviewer below. Please also refer to our minor revision in the Discussion section of the manuscript in red font.

Reviewer's report:
I believe the authors have largely answered the questions raised in my previous review, adding methodological detail where needed, more explicitly outlining the conceptual role of social support, and the discussion appears more balanced with reference to how social support may be a pathway to harm and acknowledging limitations of the design. I would like to see a more explicit theoretical conclusion in the discussion, for example stating how these findings can be interpreted in terms of the Berkman model or how they compare/add to the Cry of Pain model but this is at the author's discretion.

[Authors’ response]
Thanks for the Reviewer’s feedback. In our previous revision in the last 5 lines of the Second paragraph of Discussion in page 11-12, we have stated how our main finding can fit with the two theoretical concepts that we reviewed in the Background. However, we agree with the opinion of making a clearer interpretation of how our result can be interpreted in terms of the models. We discussed that “alternative social networks may dilute the “no escape” type of thought in the process when one formulates suicidal ideation or self-harm plans [12] or may be a pathway towards support in need for people under suicidal crisis [34].” Please refer to page 12 Line 2-7 for our inserted contents in red font. We believe that these statements provide more comprehensive discussion of our findings in this paragraph.