Author’s response to reviews

Title: Depression in the Elderly in Karachi, Pakistan: A Cross Sectional Study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to email received from Journal Editorial Office dated January 29, 2013 I am resubmitting my revised manuscript titled “Depression in the Elderly in Karachi, Pakistan: A Cross Sectional Study”. Based on reviewers’ comments, changes made in the revised manuscript are as follows:

1. Year of predictions about the estimates of aging rate has been specified in last sentence of the first paragraph of “Introduction”.
2. Pakistan dependency ratio and some additional data regarding burden of chronic disease and health workforce per 10,000 population has been added in the second paragraph of “Introduction”.
3. In “Materials and Methods” 1998 data is used as the last census was conducted in the year 1998.
4. In “Study Participants”, the detail about how serious co-morbid medical conditions were evaluated and the purpose of excluding participants with serious conditions is added.
5. Description of Systematic sampling and basis of selecting 46 blocks have been added in the “Study Sample and Recruitment”.
6. The explanation about the data collection process and data collection team has been expanded in the “Study Sample and Recruitment”.
7. Details about “Study Variables” have been added.
8. Comments about the GDS scale validation is added in the “Study Variables”.
10. In “Results” Prevalence figure has been added.
11. Bi-variate analysis figures have been added in the table (combined with univariate table).
12. In the tables word “Weighted” has been added to clarify that weights were applied.
13. In “Discussion”, explanation about difference in observed prevalence as compared to the ones reported by previous studies and effect of calculating sample size based on 20% has been added. Furthermore, literature from other countries has also been added to support the data of family support and future security.
14. The overall flow of ‘Discussion” has also been changed.
15. Prevalence data and few recommendations have been added in the “Conclusion”.
16. Few references have been added.
17. Typography guidelines and formatting rechecked.

Thanks and Kind Regards
Mehreen Bhamani