Author's response to reviews

Title: Development of a mental health care package in Nepal: a formative study

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Version: 2 Date: 6 June 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
6 June 2011
Kathmandu

To: BMC Psychiatry
Re: Development of a mental health care package in Nepal: a formative study

Dear Mr. Carlo Rye Chua,

Please accept herewith the revision of our article. We have made the requested changes and/or responses to each of the requests in the letter below.

Yours Sincerely,

1
EDITORS REQUEST:

1. Consent:
Requesting consent statement:
Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

RESPONSE
We have now included information on the consent from study participants. The following was added to the manuscript: “Informed consent was obtained from all participants to the study, for the qualitative study consent was in written form.” (Page 7)

2. Please revise your manuscript to clarify the following points:

Please clarify whether the questionnaire used in your qualitative study was validated (if so, please provide a reference).

RESPONSE
This study did not use any standardized questionnaires, rather the qualitative research was conducted using semi-structured interviews developed for the purpose of the study. We understand that the reference to questionnaires in the manuscript might have given the impression that we relied on an existing instrument. As this was not the case, we have changed this in the manuscript, to read as follows: “The core interview templates were developed by the PRIME consortium, subsequently adapted for Nepal to include questions around feasibility of the main components of the TOC.” (Pag 6)

Please also include details of how the questionnaire was adapted to a Nepalese population (including details of translation and validation).

RESPONSE
As mentioned in the response above, we did not make use of a standardized questionnaire, but used a semi-structured interview template developed by the PRIME consortium for the purpose of this study. We have now added information on the adaptation and translation of these questions: “The adaptation consisted of adding questions related to feasibility of the components of the TOC. Translation of the instruments was conducted following a systematic procedure developed for use in transcultural research that involves translation, back-translation and focus groups [21].” (Pag 7)

Reference included:

Please provide a copy of the questionnaire used as an additional file.
RESPONSE
As mentioned in the response above, we did not make use of a standardized questionnaire, but used a semi-structured interview template developed by the PRIME consortium for the purpose of this study. The interview template was used, as is common practice in doing qualitative research, to guide the interview not as a one-by-one questionnaire (and research assistants were trained accordingly). In case it is still necessary we have included this as an additional file (#2), but we would propose that this is not included as a formal part of the paper (hence no mention made to the additional file in the main manuscript).

Please revise your manuscript to ensure that it adheres to the RATS guidelines for the reporting of qualitative research (http://www.biomedcentral.com/authors/rats).

RESPONSE
We have now reviewed the RATS guidelines, and we believe the manuscript now adheres to these guidelines. The following was added to the manuscript:

“The research question was; what are the opinions and perceptions of community member, health workers and policy maker on provision of mental health care at the community level and making it more widely available?” (Pag 7)

“Consistent with the PRIME framework [14] and to ensure diversity of opinions of key stakeholders, the sample was selected to represent different levels (health organization, health facility and community), using purposive sampling technique done by research assistants, while snowball sampling was also used at the community level.” (Pag 7)

“All researchers involved in data collection or analyses had no other role in the program.” (Pag 8)

“Informed consent was obtained from all participants to the study, for the qualitative study consent was in written form, which included assurance of confidentiality.” (Pag 7)