Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with dental attendance and barriers to utilisation of oral health care services in a sample of antenatal mothers in north-eastern Malaysia

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Zauner,

First I would to thank both reviewers for the most encouraging comments and suggestions that they have made. I have done some changes accordingly as suggested by both reviewers. I believe I have addressed all issues raised.

Thank you

Response to reviewer 1 (Maria Esther Esther Josefina Irigoyen):

Basically all issues raised were addressed accordingly. The point-by-point responses to the concerns are as follows:

1. Necessary information added
2. Necessary information added
3. Necessary information added
4. Necessary information added
5. Necessary information added
6. The abbreviation MYR is no longer used. The currency is written in full.
7. Necessary information added
8. The title has been change, and so is the table numbering. The ‘Results’ has been reworked. Two tables were removed (explanation done only in text) and two tables were added. Regarding the super index, yes, the p value was obtained by Fisher’s Exact test. The authors would like to apologize for missing out the explanation.
9. Necessary information added
10. The mothers gave various combinations of reasons, but there were too many of them. The authors decided against putting them all up. Instead, the percentage of mothers who gave more than one reason for their visit was given as well as the most frequent reasons for dental visit.
11. Necessary information added
12. Necessary information added. Thank you for the suggestions.
13. Necessary changes done. Mexico changed to New Mexico
14. Both crude and adjusted odds ratio were determined by simple logistic regression analysis and multiple logistic regression analysis respectively. Detailed results are in table 4 & table 5.
15. The other problems reported by the women were the remaining problems as listed in the table i.e. apart from those mentioned in the next.
16. These issues have been addressed by multiple regression analysis.

Thank you.

Response to reviewer 2 (Socorro Aida Borges Yanez):

Basically all issues raised were addressed accordingly. The point-by-point responses to the concerns are as follows:

1. Necessary information added
2. Necessary information added
3. The questionnaire was constructed in Malay language, thus it may not be appreciable to the majority of readers. Thus the authors decided not to include the questionnaire. The copy however, may be obtained from the corresponding author upon request.
4. Necessary information added.
5. Necessary information added
6. Factors/variables associated with dental visit have been determined by both simple logistic regression and multiple logistic regression
7. Necessary information added
8. Necessary information added
9. Necessary information added
10. The questionnaire was used to assist in gathering information on the variables of interest. Tests of reliability and validity were thus not relevant. Instead, the questionnaire was pre-tested prior to the study to ensure its clarity and comprehensiveness.

1. Necessary changes done. Mexico changed to New Mexico
2. The abbreviation MYR is no longer used. The currency is written in full.
3. Clarification done
4. Owing to the small number of responses in some categories, household income and few other variables were regrouped to fulfill the chi-square test assumptions that no expected frequency should be less than 1 and no more than
20% of the expected frequencies should be less than 5. These explanations were added in the text.

5. This part has been reworked. The table has been eliminated and the results are now presented in text.

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1. Necessary information regarding possible biases included
2. Necessary information added

Thank you.

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Regards,
Dr. Norkhafizah Saddki