Author's response to reviews

Title: Educational difference in the prevalence of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women: a descriptive study in northern Iran

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Dear Editor,
We thank you and the reviewer for his helpful comments. We applied the requested changes in the revised manuscript and reply to the raised questions as follows:

Method for measuring Vitamin D and cutoff for defining vitamin D insufficiency were included in the text.

In the result section the percentage of women whose serum vitamin D was lower than 15 ng/ml was included and vitamin D deficiency was compared between rural and urban areas.

More results are presented in Result section.

The statement saying that this study is to quantify the association of SES with osteoporosis was removed from the manuscript.

In Iran, dressing style is quite different in rural and urban areas for women. In urban areas for example women are not allowed to wear short sleeve shirt or any kind of skirt in public while they mostly live in apartment. In rural areas however, women have freedom in dressing because they have to work in farm and there less security agents there.

Selection of subjects within each cluster was randomly.

This study aimed to describe educational difference in the prevalence of osteoporosis and not causal factors related to this disease. So having multivariate analysis is not in scope of the objective of this study. Educational levels can be related to osteoporosis by the differences in many aspects of life style such differences in diet, exercise habit and some other factors. We did not collect these data but our further research focus on mechanisms social factors is related to osteoporosis.

Actually, DXA is much more expensive than QUS so we have to use QUS initially and confirm those positive cases with DXA. In developing countries, we have to rely on these sources of data otherwise less research can be carried out.

In Iran, formal schooling is 12 years when a high-school diploma is given. Thereafter, people can enter college or university. Having more educational subgroups was statistically impossible since education levels was not normally distributed in this population.

Best regards,
Mohsen Maddah
Seyed Hajar Sharami