Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with suicidal behaviors in mainland China --- a meta-analysis

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Reviewer: yu yizhen

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript is much better than before. The authors answered the reviewer’s questions properly. However, I think the authors need to pay attention to the grammatically incorrect and the continuity of the language, which I have make some examples as below:

#Abstract

1#Result: “In China, based on pre-2000 data, … while post-2000 data indicated that gender had no effect on completed suicide.” suggested to be change to “In China, before 2000, females had a significant higher rate of completed suicide than males, while after 2000, no significant gender difference was found.”

#Introduction

The whole introduction needs to re-construct to improve the languages' continuity,

1#the second paragraph: “China has long been recognized as one of the countries with the highest suicide rate…” had syntax errors. (one of … the highest???)

#Methods:

1#selection of studies: “The inclusion criteria addressed all study types.” What does it mean??

2#selection of studies: “studies designed with the purpose of analyzing risk behaviors other than suicide among Chinese people, but that included suicide ideation, suicide attempt or completed suicide, were included in the meta-analysis.” What does it mean?

Discussion

The whole discussion is too vague, each paragraph in this part, the authors wrote in the same way# previous studies indicated ….were risk factors of suicide, in our meta analysis, we also found …, I suggest the author giving a deepen discussion. Besides, syntax errors also need to be corrected.

1#Second paragraph: “In the subgroup analysis, … which hinted that the impact of gender on suicide in China is gradually decreasing.” I think this sentence is wrong. The results indicated females' risk was decreasing, but it doesn't have the same mean to males.
2#Second paragraph:" ... which is due the economic development ... ” I should be change to“which is due to the economic development ...”

3#Third paragraph:" The socio-family environment... is significantly associated with a higher risk of completed suicide” should be change to” ... were significantly associated ...”, The same errors were also found in other place in this manuscript. For example, Second paragraph:”Previous reviews also reported..., are...”,”the fifth paragraph’ etc.

4#Fourth paragraph:" However, the included studies measured mood disorder subjectively as with/without sadness, depression, and despair.” I can not understand it in this context.

5#The last paragraph: “Second, risk assessment is necessary to identify modifiable or treatable high-risk factors and available protective factors.” Does it mean risk assessment is not necessary to identify unmodifiable or untreatable high-risk factors...?

6#The last paragraph: “Third, to make reliable inferences on cause-effect mechanisms, case-control or cohort studies are needed.” It is not identified by your study, it is a essential condition when making causality inferences.

7#The last paragraph “Because there are many factors associated with suicide, preventive programs that simultaneously address these multiple factors would be most appropriate for use in China, what does it mean ?

Totally, the question posed by the authors are well defined, the method is appropriate, but I don’t think the writing is acceptable, especially the introduction and the discussion, in which the language lack of logicality and continuity, therefore, I highly suggest the author reconstruct those parts.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

no competing interests