Author's response to reviews

Title: A blind area of family planning services in China: unintended pregnancy among unmarried graduate students

Authors:

Yuanzhong Zhou (zhouyuanzhong@163.com)
Chengliang Xiong (clxiong951@sina.com)
Jinwen Xiong (xxxiw@yeah.net)
Xuejun Shang (shangxj98@sina.com)
Guohui Liu (cqrzfz@126.com)
Meimei Zhang (zm12mz@126.com)
Pin Yin (ping_y2000@163.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Mr Jimmar Dizon,

RE: MS ID. 5117261747003922, entitled “A blind area of family planning services in China: unintended pregnancy among unmarried graduate students”

Thank you for your letter and the referees’ comments for the revision of our manuscript again. Our responses to the reviewers’ re-comments are as follows.

To referee 2

Q1: P8 Questionnaire Survey and Data Collection

‘The questionnaire ...covering 3 topics’. 2nd topic was ‘attitudes towards contraception, pregnancy and abortion’. If 'attitudes towards contraception and pregnancy' was not covered in the result, I suggest the author could probably delete this.

Response: Thank you. We have deleted it in new revised MS.

Q2: P7 sampling part

Line 11 and 13, the author may need to add ‘that or which’ in front of sentences 'only has mater's degree authorization' and 'have both mater’s degree and doctoral'.

Response: Thank you. We have revised it in new revised MS.

Q3: Table 3

In table 3 the last variable ‘frequency of use of contraception’, OR for female is <1 but OR for male is >1. Please provide sound explanation in the MS. I think the sample size was quite large. The possible reason for this 'whether use of contraception' was self-reported. Indeed the investigator didn't really know what methods the participants had been using. Those could be unreliable methods, for example withdrawn and 'safe period', which didn't help to prevent unintended pregnancy.

Response: Thanks for your comments. In present study, we also noticed that “OR for female is <1, but OR for male is >1” for variable ‘frequency of use of
contraception’ (methods were looked as effective for preventing pregnancy by responders). Just as you mentioned, the self-reported ‘use of contraception’ is not necessarily reliable method, which was one of possible reasons. In addition, we proposed that one of possible factors in previous revised version also was: compared with female students, male students had less concern on the consequences of unintended pregnancies as showed in table 3. So, male students had more possible classify experience of unintended pregnancy to contraceptive failure instead of absence of contraception. However, the factors involved in the effective for preventing pregnancy was complex and the exact role of ‘reliable contraception’ (such as condom, contraceptive) in preventing unintended pregnancy remains to be fully addressed in future research work. Undoubtedly, your good comments were much valuable for our successive research study.

Please forgive my mistake in the previous peer review reports. Sorry.

The variable ‘whether knowing the conditions of conception’ meant ‘students select all correct answers of conditions of contraception but no wrong answers from list’. I still didn’t get what the variable exactly means. The author may need to provide detail information how they define this variable. For example how was the question asked in the questionnaire? How was the category ‘no’ defined? et al.

Response: Thanks for your comments. The variable was come from a multiple choice questionnaire. And detail of information was showed as below:

What are the basic conditions for human conception? (Multiple choice)
1. healthy and active sperm can get into the vagina, and remain active force;
2. healthy and mature egg;
3. cervical mucus must be appropriate and conducive to sperm survival and penetration;
4. unobstructed reproductive tract to make the sperm and egg meeting;
5. sperm and egg must combined and formed a fertilized egg;
6. fertilized egg reach the uterine cavity timely, and the intrauterine environment is suitable for the growth and development of fertilized egg.

7. the sex intercourse between male and female

If a student chose answer 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 but no 7, we considered it as ‘knowing the conditions of conception’, otherwise ‘no’.

We greatly appreciate the constructive comments from the referee. And we look forward to receiving your positive decision.

Sincerely,

Zhou Yuan-zhong