Author's response to reviews

Title: Domestic violence against women in Eastern Sudan.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewer: Lotta Nybergh

Major Compulsory:

1- We gave information about the statistical methods that were used in this study in the abstract as recommended. Yes the causality between domestic violence and the associated factors can’t be determined in our study because it was a cross sectional one and this was mentioned in the abstract.

2- We reworded the conclusion as recommended.

3- We used our own questionnaire to investigate the women which consider different individual issues specific to our environment such as polygamous marriage, threat with divorce, please see the method section.

4- To avoid the confusion and under the subheading statistical analysis, we omitted the sentence “the data was double checked.

5- Yes, followed the WHO guideline for the ethical clearance and the written consent included the title, purpose, benefit, participants’ right, confidentiality, signature please see the ethic subheading in the methods. Yes we believe the manuscript get benefit from the 100% participation and this was clearly mentioned in the discussion.

6- Yes we considered the multivariate analyses results as final rather the univariate one as per table 3 the three significant factors (husband education, polygamous marriage and husband’s alcohol consumption) persisted even adjusted for each other where in the model we entered the significant one only without the other two and vice versa and so on.
7- We don’t think the result of the univariate analysis will be of benefit if mentioned in the result section because we considered the result of multivariate as final whenever there is discrepancy between the two analyses, moreover the multivariate analysis is of more statistical power and we used it to investigate the effect of all variables on each other.

8- Yes the reference N 10 (now N 11) considered violence in Pakistan but in its bottom the authors mentioned statistic from different region including India, Vietnam and other countries.

9- Policy implications to reduce the practice by policy makers was disused in the discussion.

10- The statement “…it is of no doubt the different forms of violence give negative impact on the women’s life in particular their care after children and community participation” followed by a reference as recommended.

11- We conducted regression analyses of sexual and psychological violence, please see the results and table 4.

12- Recall bias might affect the results; this because the respondents may forget what was happen and this has been elaborated in the limitation section.

13- The cross-sectional design of this study mentioned under limitations.

14- The language of the manuscript had been checked.

**Minor essential**

1- We used the term sexual coercion consistently in the manuscript.

2- Concerning the sentence “many theories can be used to justify violence against women” the word justify replaced by explain as recommended.

3- Under the methods section the union age mean reproductive age and we corrected it.

4- Uni and multivariate was changed to uni and multivariables.
5- We inserted “< 0.001” for P value rather than 0.000 in table 3 and the text.

6- In the background we specified that the definition given for violence against women is from the WHO.

7- Concerning the sentence in the background “There is limited data…” we marked a new paragraph as recommended.

8- We corrected the study period from 2015 to 2014 in the methods.

9- In the abstract and methods we specified that data were gathered by face-to-face interviews.

**DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS**

1- The aim of the study was stated in the background section of the abstract instead of in the methods section.

2- We considered the 100% participation as a very important point in the discussion section.

**Response to Reviewer: Hunniya Waseem**

**Minor essential:**

1- In the abstract the sentence “women reported that they experience divorce threat and marriage threat” we clarified the threat it was second marriage threat.

2- We reworded the first sentence of the background.

3- Page 3, sentence 13 where the gender theory is discussed we revised the sentence.

4- In the 21st sentence on page 3, we re-write the sentence “To our knowledge no available data on domestic violence against women in Sudan exists.”
5- The last sentence in the background was revised.

6- In the eligibility criteria of the article on page 4, we revised the third sentence to be clear.

7- In the second last sentence of the eligibility criteria on page 5 we inserted the word woman.

8- In the data collection section, third line we re-wrote it as “after obtaining written consent, self-structured questionnaires...ect. as recommended.

9- On the fifth line in the data collection methods, we replaced the word stated by started.

10-In the sixth sentence in the data collection we replaced is by was.

11-In the 17th sentence in the data collection section we replaced small p by capital P for psychological violence.

12-On page 6 in the results section we replaced had been by were.

13-In the last sentence of the result section on page 7 we clarified the divorce and marriage threat.

14-On 7th page, in the Discussion section, we corrected the 4th sentence to be read as “The data was collected by female students who lived in the same state and were well respected and trusted in the community.

15-On page 8, 5th sentence was reconstructed to be read as “our findings indicate poor socio-economic circumstance contribute significantly to domestic violence against women”.

16-On page 8 we revised the 8th sentence as recommended.

17-We revised the sentence 9-12 on page 8 as recommended.
18-Page 8, 22nd sentence we omitted the word of course.
19-The 22nd sentence on page 8 was revised.
20-We made separate section for the limitation.
21-The fifth sentence on page 9 starting from limitations was restructured.
22-In conclusion small t was replaced by capital T for the word this.
23-We broken the conclusion into two sentences as recommended.

**Discretionary Revision:**

We added the present laws existent in Sudan related to Domestic violence and which ministry is responsible for women health and welfare, please see the background and the religious perception has been discussed as recommended, please see the background.

All these changes have been highlighted to be traced easily

This work may still need some editorial touches; these are welcomed and will be highly appreciated.

Best Regards

Dr. Ali