Author's response to reviews

Title: Developing and implementing an Accreditation system for Health Promoting Schools in Northern India: A cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To,
The Editor,
BMC Public Health

Subject: - Re-submission of manuscript for publication in BMC Public Health

Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled, ‘Developing and implementing an Accreditation system for Health Promoting Schools in Northern India: A cross-sectional study’ which we would like to resubmit for publication as a research article in journal, ‘BMC Public Health’. We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to BMC Public Health.

The comment wise reply to the editor’s comment has been given below:

**Comment:** "...basically I asked the authors to comment in the discussion about the potential for inequity between poor and rich schools because it seems to me that accreditation systems favor the latter and (further) disadvantage the former. The authors have not done this apart from a reference to accreditation being for both affluent and non-affluent schools which sidesteps the point or does not provide enough detail about the potential for inequity."

**Reply:** We appreciate your comments. We have addressed this issue and necessary changes have been done under Results section (line no. 218-221) and Discussion section (line no. 235-259). Table 4 has been expanded which shows the accreditation status of government and private schools in Chandigarh in pre-intervention (2011) and post intervention (2013) period. The government and private schools have almost similar status in terms of infrastructure, quality of teachers, teachers’ student ratio and healthy environment at baseline assessment which has clearly shown significant improvement after post assessment. Therefore, in our opinion, accreditation system has not favoured any specific category of school, i.e. Government or Private.
Yours sincerely,

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