Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors influencing voluntary premarital medical examination in China: a culturally-tailored health behavioral model analysis

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
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Rita Aguirre
Journal Editorial Office
BMC Public Health

Dear Rita,

Uploaded is our revised manuscript entitled “Factors influencing voluntary premarital medical examination in China: a culturally-tailored health behavioral model analysis” (MS: 1280049550939545) by Yaming Gu, Lu Li, Chi Zhou, Tingzhong Yang, and Hengjin Dong

To “include the information on how this manuscript is different from your Chinese publication within your cover letter,” we state the following:

We believe that our current study is different from our previously published study (Li L, Gu YM, Zhou C et al: Influencing factors on the voluntary premarital medical examination among Chinese. Zhonghua liuxingbingxue zazhi 2011, 32(11):1105-9)

First, the previously published paper was focused on factors that influenced PME appliance in Chinese population and possible intervention strategies, which basically is an epidemiological study, while the current study is focused on establishing a behavioral model that can predict PME compliance, which is a health behavioral or ethological study. In the current paper, we tried to understand the PME compliance by exploring the behavioral mechanisms at the framework of behavioral theories.

Second, the previously published paper was based on and reported a part of the entire study, while the current study is based on and reports other parts that were not used before, such as the social desirability responding tendency (SDRT). The SDRT covered 777 participants (30.2%), on which the main analyses, discussions, and conclusions of the current study were based.

Third, the analytical methodology used in the current study completely differs from the one used in the previously published paper; the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was applied to assess the adequacy of the prediction model and draw the main conclusion.
We, therefore, believe that the data presented in the current manuscript are new, interesting, and worthy a publication. However, we are open to any suggestions and advices to further revise our current manuscript. We thank the Executive Editor for the advice of revising.

I’m looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards.
Lu Li

P.S. Please note that we’ve added the following to the current manuscript (Lines 98-106):

**Participants, Questionnaires, and Data Collection**

A comprehensive survey of PME compliance was conducted during September to December 2010 in Zhejiang province, China, and the participants, questionnaires, and data collection were described in a previous study [29]. Briefly, a total of 2,572 subjects from 12 counties were selected through stratified randomized sampling. They were to-be married couples who must go to the county marriage registration office for marriage certificate and voluntarily register for PME. Questionnaires covered socio-demographic characteristics and behavioral determinants (Ajzen and Fishbein’s work referred). Trained investigators from county’s maternal and children hospital conducted the survey and collected the data.