Author's response to reviews

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

Authors:

Yaming Gu PhD (gympxy@126.com)
Lu Li Prof (lilu@zju.edu.cn)
Chi Zhou PhD (zhc.kathy@163.com)
Tingzhong Yang Prof (tingzhongyang@sohu.com)
Hengjin Dong Prof (donghj@zju.edu.cn)

Version: 5 Date: 19 June 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
June 17, 2014

Lu Li
Director and Professor
Institute of Social Medicine & Family Medicine
Zhejiang University School of Medicine
866 Yuhangtang Rd., Hangzhou, China 310058
Tel: 86-13905710601

Rita Aguirre
Journal Editorial Office
BMC Public Health

Dear Rita Aguirre,

We thank you for your advice and encouragement regarding our manuscript entitled “Factors influencing voluntary premarital medical examination in Zhejiang Province, China—a culturally-tailored health behavioral model analysis” (MS: 1280049550939545). We have addressed the concerns raised by the re-reviewers and revised the manuscript, according to their advice. Please see our point to point responses to the comments below. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lu Li
Responses to MagaGanczak’s comments:

1. In my first review, I suggested to contrast voluntary PME, which is practiced in some countries, with mandatory PME. I still recommend to mention both approaches towards PME in this paragraph to let potential readers differentiate between voluntary and mandatory premarital examination issues.

Responses: Thanks. We have revised as follows: “Premarital medical examination (PME) has proved to be an effective measure to prevent diseases such as syphilis, hemoglobinopathies, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and hepatitis B [1, 2]. Mandatory PME refers to policies that make certain medical examinations a necessary condition for marriage, especially in which diseases are endemic for various legal and cultural reasons, and other educational and cost-effectiveness factors [1-6]. For example, in the United Arab Emirates screening for syphilis, hepatitis B, and HIV in new marriages is required by law [2], while in Nigeria religious factors drive HIV screening [6]. However, voluntary PME is more dominant form than the mandatory form [2, 7-9] worldwide probably due to ethical considerations and its overtones of eugenics. (Line46-54)

Responses to Ying Liang’s comments:

The structure of the revised article is clearer. And the presentation format is more concise. As the responses of authors implied, they have made many major revisions. Still there are two minor problems that the authors need to further clarify and address.

First, the investigation conducted in 2010. But you introduced that “ME has dropped drastically from 94.3% in 2003 to 1.6% in 2004 in Zhejiang province”. I am wondering that how is PME rate of Zhejiang province in 2010? Has it declined, too? If you can provide the data of around 2010, it would be more perfect.

Responses: Thanks. We have provided PME rate 40.0% in Zhejiang province in 2009 (see line 57).

Second, Figure 2 seems to lack the latitude and longitude coordinates of Zhejiang...
province that a map basically needs.

**Responses:** We appreciated Ying Liang’s comment and have added the latitude and longitude coordinates to Figure 2.