Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Maga Ganczak

Reviewer’s report:

The paper assesses factors influencing voluntary premarital medical examination in China with the use of a culturally-tailored health behavioural model analysis.

An article is of importance in its field.

My comments in more detail:

Introduction

The authors state “PME is voluntary in most countries…” I would contrast it with a commentary that there are also many countries in which it’s mandatory (see ref. The impact of premarital HIV testing: a perspective from selected countries from the Arabian Peninsula. AIDS Care 2010; 22(11):1428-33; and Premarital screening programmes for haemoglobinopathies, HIV and hepatitis viruses: Review and factors affecting their success. Journal of Medical Screening, 2009;16, 22-28).

An explanation of major arguments proffered for the PME in China and the range of test used would be of value.

Methods

A brief information of the sampling procedure would be of value.

The paper would benefit from establishing the population size in the province and the number/percentage of those at the age to marry as well as the geographical structure. How many counties are there in the province? How many of them participated in the survey?

In other words, to what extent was the study population representative of the region, of the country? There might be a generalizability problem. Since the study was conducted among selected subjects from one province, it may not be generalizable to all provinces in China. This should be also put in the “Limitations” section. Such section should be separated from the main text.

The authors state: “Trained investigators from county’s maternal and children hospital conducted the survey…” How many investigators and what were their professions? As there are many counties in the province, it would be of value to specify which maternal and children hospital was chosen and why.

Results

What was the overall response rate? It should be also put in the Abstract Results
Table 1: It would benefit from including the population addressed and the population size, i.e. Socio-demographic characteristic of ….. (n=..), Zheijang province, China, 2010.

Table 2: the same, i.e. Multivariable …regression of PME compliance among….., Zheijang province, China, 2010.

Discussion
The Discussion section would benefit from the implementation of sub-sections (sub-titles).

What are practical recommendations for the province, for the country and in general? A “Recommendations” section in the final part of the manuscript would be of value.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests' below