Author's response to reviews

Title: The best in the world? A study on key actors maintaining elders in functional autonomy in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)

Authors:

Abdramane Berthe (aberthe56@yahoo.fr)
Lalla Berthé-Sanou (sanoulalla@yahoo.fr)
Serge Somda (manituo@gmail.com)
Blahima Konatê (kobla70@hotmail.com)
Hervé Hien (mwinone@yahoo.fr)
Fatoumata Tou (fatoutou2006@yahoo.fr)
Maxime Drabo (m_drabok@yahoo.fr)
Fatoumata Badini-Kinda (fkinda_badini@univ-ouaga.bf)
Jean Macq (jean.macq@uclouvain.be)

Version: 3
Date: 26 June 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
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We wish to thank both reviewers for their useful comments. We tried as much as possible to respond to it and improve our manuscript.

Reviewer's report:
Looking through the paper I still believe the research question is not explicitly and clearly stated and therefore the intent of the review is not immediately evident to the reader. It is currently in the Abstract buried in the Background.

For me, the research questions are: 1) who are the key actors of the social system who maintain elders in functional autonomy at home? And 2) what is the functional status elders living at home in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso). In the questionnary SMAF, these 2 questions correspond respectively to the second column (resources) and to the first column (incapacity). So these study objectives are: 1) identify the key actors of the social system who maintain elders in functional autonomy at home and 2) to describe the functional status of older people living at home.

So we introduced these questions and objectives in our abstract and revised version 2.

Our results show that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1 (resources)</th>
<th>Objective 2 (incapacity)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) The elderly as first and principal actors responsible for maintaining their own functional autonomy in Bobo-Dioulasso</td>
<td>Two-thirds (240/351 or 68%) of older people had good functional capacity or a slight incapacity. They were primarily responsible for maintaining their own functional autonomy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) The family as the second group of people for maintaining elders in functional autonomy in Bobo-Dioulasso</td>
<td>A third of the older people (111/351 or 32%) showed moderate to severe disability and therefore a need for supervision or assistance from another person. The social support systems for maintaining of these elders in functional autonomy were almost exclusively made up of family members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Community, private or public structures for maintaining elders in functional autonomy are non-existent</td>
<td>Not one person among the elderly with moderate to severe disabilities cited health workers, volunteers in associations and/or other agents of community, private or public structures as actors who maintain elders in functional autonomy.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

And we focused our discussion about these results.