Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge and Awareness about STDs of Women in Bangladesh

Authors:

Md. Mosharaf Hossain Mr (m_population@yahoo.com)
Kulanthayan Dr K.C. Mani Mr. (kulan@upm.edu.my)
Sherina Dr Mohd Sidik (sherina@upm.edu.my)
Hayati Dr Kadir (hayatik@upm.edu.my)
Md. Rafiquil Dr Islam Mr (rafique_pops@yahoo.com)

Version: 7  Date: 4 June 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Knowledge and Awareness about STDs of Women in Bangladesh
Version: 5
Date: 27 April 2014
Reviewer: Save Kumwenda
Reviewer's report:
Comments
General Comment
The authors have done a very good work by addressing all the comments raised. The article now looks much better and suitable for publication; however, the authors need to attend to some minor essential comments stated below before the article is published.

Answer: Thanks for your good comments

Minor essential comments
1. Authors: Review punctuation on authors i.e. the commas should come after the numbers indicating authors’ affiliation and details
Answer: Done.................Page 1 & Line 2
Md. Mosharaf Hossain¹, Kulanthayan K.C. Mani², Sherina Mohd Sidik³, Hayati Kadir Shahar⁴ and Md. Rafiqul Islam⁵

2. Abstract: Are you not going to comment or recommend something on geographic location under conclusion? This is expected since geographic location has been found to be significantly related to knowledge.
Answer: Done.................Page 2 & Line 22
There is a need to improve the education in Bangladesh about STDs particularly among those in the rural areas and older ages of women (30-49 years). Formal, informal and special educational knowledge and awareness programmes may be implemented to educate people concerning STDs in Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittangong division.

3. Methods: I feel the subheading “Survey objectives and implementing organizations” and its contents should be deleted. The subheading is not talking about the survey objectives but rather the objectives of the secondary data source used, the BDHS. This is confusing as readers expect current survey objectives. The BDHS objectives may be stated when introducing this data source under introduction. Also the subheading talks about “implementing organizations” but they are missing in the section. The subheading is also not clear in itself.
Answer: Deleted.............Page 7

4. Methods: Under sample design, you have introduced words like “zillas”, “upzillas” and “mohallas”, are these English words? If not, do they have any meaning? If they mean something, please describe what they mean.
Answer: Done.............Page 6 & Line 8
Each division is subdivided into *zilas* (*meaning district*), and each *zila* into *upazilas* (*meaning administrative unit*). Each urban area in an *upazila* is divided into wards, and into *mohallas*
within a ward. A rural area in the upazila is divided into union parishads (UP) and mouzas (meaning village) within a UP.

5. Methods: Under sample design, your sample size looks big and well selected but you have not explained or justified why you chose 30 households and finally 10996 women. Just choosing 30 may not provide statistical reliable estimates. The figure 30 only helps you to comfortably perform some statistical tests. Did you use a formula? If so what parameters were considered?

   **Answer: Done**............Page 6 & Line 19

With this design, the survey selected 10,996 residential households, which were expected to result in completed interviews with about 10,996 ever-married women. The sample allocations were derived using information obtained from the 2007 BDHS.

6. Methods: Under data analysis you stated that you used windows based software together with SPSS. Which windows based software did you use? Mention them.

   **Answer: Done**.................Page 7 & Line 6

Statistical analysis of the results was obtained by using Statistical Packages Program for Social Sciences (SPSS-21) for Windows Version 21

7. Methods: Under data analysis, the last but one sentence should be written in one continuous line i.e. \( y=1 \) if ... and \( y=0 \), otherwise.

   **Answer: Done**.................Page 7 & Line 12

The dependent variable used in the model was a dichotomous binary variable: \( Y=1 \), if the respondents have knowledge and awareness about STDs and \( y=0 \), otherwise.

8. Ethics Statement: Does the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have an ethics committee? Readers may be interested to know if the approval came from ethics committee or just from Government department without a special committee.

   **Answer: Yes**......**Have a Ethical Committee**

9. Results: Second paragraph after Table 1, the sentence with number 2.366, 10.088 and 20.241 needs to be revised because these numbers have been repeated without adding any value to the explanation in the preceding sentence.

   **Answer: Done**............Page 10/ Line 2.

The regression coefficients for women who have completed primary, secondary and higher levels of education have 2.366, 10.089 and 20.241 times greater knowledge and awareness about STDs than women who have no education, respectively

10. Results: in general, the results section contains some discussions, conclusions and recommendations. These need to go to appropriate sections to reduce repetition of statements.

   **Answer: I rearrange in according to your comments**............Page 13/ Line 4

11. Conclusion: The third sentence and the preceding one, which reads “it is also
found that the respondent’s age, education…” Does not fit well as conclusion but rather should be under discussion.

Answer: Deleted............Page 13/ Line 5........

12. Authors details: This section need to be deleted as these have been well stated on the first page after the title.

Answer: Deleted.................Page 14

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
## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Knowledge and Awareness about STDs of Women in Bangladesh  
**Version:** 5  
**Date:** 4 May 2014  
**Reviewer:** Md Mizanur Dr. Rahman  

**Reviewer's report:** Please find an attached file

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>My Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Thanks for your comments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Key words** | logistic model | It should be Logistic regression  
Page 3/Line 4 |
| **Introduction, page 5** | The level of knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS decreases with an increase in age (p = <0.05). Although males are slightly more aware than the females, the relationship is not statistically significant (p = >0.05). Secondary educated female garment workers have more knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS, including STDs than illiterate female garment workers (p = <0.01) [15]. | The level of knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS decreases with an increase in age (p<0.05). Although the males are slightly more aware than the females, the relationship is not statistically significant (p>0.05). Secondary educated female garment workers have more knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS, including STDs, than illiterate female garment workers (p<0.01)  
Page 5/ Line 17 |
| **Sample design** | Bangladesh has seven administrative divisions: Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, You analysed data on six division as noted in abstract. But you gave description on 7 division. (Most probably Bangladesh has six administrative divisions: Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet. |  
Page 6/ Line 7 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Objectives and Implementing Organizations</th>
<th>Data analysis</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too much description on this issues. Write one or two sentence about the objectives of the survey.</td>
<td><strong>Logistic regression</strong> analysis was conducted to determine the risk factors with the dependent variable.</td>
<td>Although the majority have knowledge and awareness about STDs, a great number of people (29.4%) do not have any knowledge or awareness about STDs, for which the Rajshahi division has the highest percentage (6.4%) of respondents. (????)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deleted Page 7</strong></td>
<td>It should be logistic (not logistics) regression analysis was conducted to determine the risk factors with the dependent variable. Several places it has been noticed. Correct it.</td>
<td>Confusing statement. Rewrite it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deleted</strong></td>
<td>Logistic regression analysis was also conducted to determine the risk factors with the dependent variable. Page 7/ Line 1</td>
<td>In Bangladesh, the majority (70.6%) of women have knowledge and awareness about STDs, while 29.4% of them do not have any knowledge or awareness about STDs. The Dhaka division has the highest percentage of respondents with knowledge and awareness about STDs (16.4%). Page 8/ Line 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Deleted** | | Therefore, the government should This sentence is not result. No discussion here. No emphasize .................. especially for the Rajshahi division. | **Deleted**

and Sylhet.

Rangpur division included in Rajshahi (Clear this confusion)
| The odd ratio for women living in rural areas is 0.363, ....................women who live in urban areas. | The odds ratio (not odd ratio) (several places I have noticed) | The regression odds ratios for women living in Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong are 1.669, 2.234, 0.943, 0.949 and 0.971, respectively. Page 10/ Line 12 |
| This could be because women in rural areas have .........................and awareness about STDS. | It should not be in results section (it is comment and discussion) | Deleted and include conclusion Page 13/ Line 4 |
| Since the women of Rajshahi, ..................... increase their knowledge and awareness about STDS. | It should not be in results section (it is comment and discussion) | Deleted and include conclusion Page 13/ Line 4 |
| Discussion | This study is not free of limitations. Firstly, the study area is not large. Secondly, the study results are from only a few areas, which may not completely reflect the overall scenario in Bangladesh. Finally, the sample size was also small in relation to the total number of women in the country. | Why? Sample size is not small. It is nationally representative and follow the standard sampling procedure. One limitation you may write as the information was self-reported | One of the limitations in this study is that the information was self-reported. Page 13/ Line 13 |
| Table | Table 1 should be frequency table (please add it) | Include Table 1 Page 18/ Column 3 |
| | Table 2 should be bi-variate table (chi square test) with row percentage (column percentage | Done |
| Table 3 should be regression analysis (model specification should also be “model chi square (df) and p-value, sample size etc.) | Include Table 2 |
| In Logistic regression table Std error to be included for detection of outliers and multicolinearity (>2 std error, a problem data need to be checked) | Done Page 19/ Colum 4 & 5 |