Author's response to reviews

Title: Psychological distress among Bam earthquake survivors in Iran: a population-based study

Authors:

Ali Montazeri (ali@jdcord.jd.ac.ir)
Hamid Baradaran (baradaran98@yahoo.com)
Sepideh Omidvari (somidvari@ihsr.ac.ir)
Seyed Ali Azin (aazin@ihsr.ac.ir)
Mehdi Ebadi (mebadi@ihsr.ac.ir)
Gholamreza Garmaroudi (ggarmaroudi@ihsr.ac.ir)
Amir Mahmood Harirchi (hariram@hbi.or.ir)
Mohammad Shariati (mshariati@ihsr.ac.ir)

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Dears in The BioMed Central Editorial Team,

Re: ‘Psychological distress among Bam earthquake survivors in Iran: a population-based study’

Thank you for your letter of 15 September. I have found the reviewers’ comments helpful. Thus the following changes have been made to the manuscript:

1. The justification for not use a measure of PTSD was provided.
2. The sampling method was further explained in the Method section.
3. Data collection period was indicated in the Method section (a week).
4. The discussion on variables relating to PTSD and depression was further explained and new references were provided.
5. In the Discussion the distinction between PSTD and depression was clarified as recommended.
6. The variables needed to study the relationship between psychological distress and the impact of the earthquake was further expanded as recommended.
7. A discussion on study findings (association between higher GHQ scores and female gender, less education and unemployment) was further explained. However, this was added to the beginning part of the Discussion instead of adding it to the concluding paragraph and necessary references were provided.
8. A paragraph on the study limitations was added to the Discussion.
9. In the Method section 'factors predicting distress' was replaced with 'factors associated with distress'.
10. A sentence about data gathering strategy was added to the Method section.
11. The OR figures in the text and the Table 3 was corrected.
12. The spelling errors in the text and references and the sentence in the abstract were corrected.
13. Since we found the comments by the Maria Livanou very helpful, this was acknowledged in the Acknowledgments.

Hope you find the corrections satisfactory.
Yours sincerely
Ali Montazeri