Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge and perception of diabetes in a semi-urban Omani population

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Para-wise clarification to the reviewers’ comments

Reviewer: Viswanathan Mohan

1. The background of the article has been appropriately shortened.
2. All the members of the household aged 20 and above were included in the study group. However, those who refused to participate were excluded from the study group. The same has been included in the text.
3. The Table 2 has now been deleted and the text has been added in the result section as per the reviewer’s suggestion.
4. Figure 1 has been deleted and the material has been added in the text.
5. Figure 1 has been deleted.
6. Subjects when they were asked, for example, if they know the definition of diabetes or some symptoms or risk factors; majority said yes but when it came to mention specifically what are these then they have a problem and their awareness appeared much less.
7. Discussion section has been rewritten and shortened as per suggestion.

Reviewer: Per Wandell

1. Multivariate analysis has now been carried out using step-wise multiple logistic regression models. Accordingly, the methodology has been re-written and incorporated in the text. Table 4 describes the results of the multivariate analysis. The findings of the results in Table 4 have been incorporated in the text.
**Reviewer: Rainford Jonathan Wilks**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Methods:

   (a) The entire population of the village aged 20 and above, who consented to participate was included in the study.

   (b) Approval of the appropriate authority and informed consent of the participants were obtained and this fact has been incorporated in the text.

   (c) The entire population of the village aged 20 and above, who consented to participate was included in the study. Moreover, utmost care was taken to avoid any participants and interviewer's bias while collecting data.

   (d) The interview was conducted in a standardized structured one-to-one interview in the local Arabic dialect in open ended question in a questionnaire. This has been included in the text. The limitation of the study has been re-written.

   (e) Aggregating responses for cells with less than 5 responses is a known statistical procedure to enable the use Chi squared test. Moreover, clubbing responses enables us to change categorical variables to binary one which would be introduced in logistic regression model. Based on the suggestion of another reviewer, data analysis has been also performed using multiple logistic regression.

   (f) Title of the Table 3 has been changed as suggested.

   (g) Figure 1 has been deleted.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. Results

   (a) Table 2 has been removed.

   (b) To maintain the brevity, separate table on awareness of diabetes complications has not been included but a separate paragraph has been
added in the result section which is more clear and informative.
(c) Necessary changes have been made as per the suggestion.
(d) Changes have been made as suggested.
(e) Grammatical errors and spelling mistakes have been corrected.
(f) The text of the article has now been reframed to avoid any ambiguity.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. (a) Multivariate analysis has now been carried out to explain the association between KAP and educational level in table 4 controlling for other confounders.
(b) The gender differential has now been carried out as suggested and also included in the text.

Reviewer: Katarina Hjelm

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. As per the reviewer’s comment the text has been modified and introduction has been shortened. The old references have been removed and the data on diabetes prevalence in Oman has been included. The word epidemiological study has been removed as per suggestion.

2. Trained interviewers visited the households and conducted the interviews with standardized structured pre-tested one-to-one interview in local Arabic dialect with open-ended questions. The word “peer-reviewed” was written by mistake in place of the word “pre-tested”. A pilot study was undertaken before conducting the study and the same has now been incorporated in the text. We do not intend to generalize the findings of our study for entire country. Two villages close to the College of Medicine & Health Sciences of Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat were selected to obtain the primary information on the subject. Based on the finding of the study we intend to carry out further research on the subject. As suggested, the data analysis has been strengthened by incorporating the multivariate analysis based on multiple logistic regression models.
3. Respondents who reported as diabetic were diagnosed by the doctors and were kept under medication. The differences between male and female respondents have been summarized in the result section. The determinant of KAP has been analyzed using multiple logistic regression models as per the suggestion and the same has been incorporated in the text.

4. The appropriate p-values have now been incorporated in the results shown in Table 1. The Table 2 has been deleted and a paragraph on the knowledge on symptoms of diabetes has been added in the result section. The Figure 1 has been deleted.

5. The discussion section has been re-written and shortened as desired. Similarly, the limitations of the study have been re-written. Interviewers were trained to avoid any kind of response bias. Respondents who refused to participate in the study were excluded.

6. The abstract has been modified in the light of the reviewer’s suggestions.

7. The necessary language corrections have been made.