Author's response to reviews

Title: Intimate partner violence against women in rural Vietnam: different socio-demographic factors are associated with different forms of violence. Need for new intervention guidelines?

Authors:

Nguyen Dang Vung (ndvung755@yahoo.com)
Per-Olof Ostergren (per-olof.ostergren@med.lu.se)
Gunilla Krantz (gunilla.krantz@socmed.gu.se)

Version: 3 Date: 18 January 2008

Author's response to reviews:

To the Editors,

BMC Public Health
BioMed Central Ltd, Middlesex House, 34-42 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4LB
United Kingdom
Hanoi, 18 January 2008

Dear Editor,

We hereby are happy to resubmit our paper on

Intimate partner violence against women in rural Vietnam: different socio-demographic factors are associated with different forms of violence. Need for new intervention guidelines? to be further considered for publication in BMC Public Health.

MS: 8317342351393759

Nguyen Dang Vung, Per-Olof Ostergren and Gunilla Krantz

Thank you very much for your review and consideration of our manuscript, we would like to answer your questions/comments as follows:

Authors¿ response

to reviewer Amy Bononi on our paper titled Intimate partner violence against women in rural Vietnam: different socio-demographic factors are associated with different forms of violence. Need for new intervention guidelines.

Thank you for some good comments raised by Amy Bononi and our responses to these are as follows:
1. We have not edited the ms any further, it has twice been for language editing (different editors) by professional English language editors. We are however ready to accept any language editing made by BMC.

2. Two new references are now included as suggested in the very beginning of the Introductory part. Thanks for the very suitable references.

3. The prevalence for psychological abuse as a single entity is now presented in the abstract as suggested.

4. The information on Bavi district has been moved as suggested, to the methods section.

5. The response rate is given on page 7 where it is stated that only one woman declined to participate. No further changes have been made here.

6. As only one woman declined to participate, we do not in this study see that women subjected to more severe violence would be less likely to participate. Johnson’s article is well known to us but it seems the women in our study were not hesitating to participate and the level of severity of the violence reported is also spread on the levels of severity. Therefore no changes or additions were made to this point.

7. The short para on recall bias has been somewhat changed as concerns language, and ‘accurate’ was exchanged to ‘reliable’. However, we believe that what we want to say in this paragraph is there, and we believe it is important to reflect on that recall bias may be less when it is about violence compared to other less difficult experiences a person can have. This is only our thinking and not something we are able to give a reference to, but we included one new ref here which is about recall bias in a newly published review study that to a certain extent support our statement here.

Kind regards
The authors of this ms