Reviewer’s report

Title: A Closer Look at the Increase in Suicide Rates in South Korea from 1986-2005

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Reviewer: Jukka Hintikka

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This is a descriptive study on suicide mortality from 1986-2005 in South Korea without any statistical analyses. Suicide rates increased both in men and women. The proportional increase in suicide rates was more prominent among the younger group aged under 45, despite the absolute increase being attributed to the older group.

The manuscript needs some

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Suicide mortality rates should be analysed as a time series together with some potential confounders (e.g. annual gross domestic income (per capita), unemployment rate, divorce rate, alcohol consumption etc.)
2. In 1997 there was a rapid downswing in national economy in South Korea. Gross national income per capita plummeted nearly 35% from 1997 to 1998. In my opinion, it is necessary to analyze differences in suicide mortality before and after 1997/98.
3. By making these analyses, the authors could present some real findings concerning the determinants of suicide. In the current manuscript they only discuss them in relation to Korean statistics and three studies from the UK. Findings from other countries were also interesting because changes in suicide rates after economic recession are divergent in different countries. I think that the authors should widen/rewrite their Discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.