Author's response to reviews

Title: The relationship between health promoting resources and work participation in a population reporting musculoskeletal pain. A sample from the Nord-Trondelag Health Study, HUNT 3, Norway.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

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Reply to Reme’s comments

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The conclusion in the abstract is revised p 2.
2. Linguistic errors are corrected (in addition minor revisions).

Discretionary Revisions
1. First sentence of the third paragraph on p 3 is revised to: This study is based on the concept of salutogenesis, defined by Antonovsky as the process towards the health end of a health ease/disease continuum.
2. The third sentence of the third paragraph on p 9 (now third sentence, second paragraph on p 9) is unnecessary, and the sentence is therefore deleted: Through an investigation of the shape of the distribution a generally quite normal sample distribution was whole.
3. The past tense verb “were,” is inserted in first sentence, second paragraph on p 12.
4. The fourth sentence of the second paragraph on p 14 is rewritten to: “Salutogenic theory focuses on the tension between internal and external resources and demands”.
5. The last sentence of the third paragraph on p 15 is removed.
6. The second paragraph p 16 is rewritten.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In the third sentence of the second paragraph on p 3 are “as” and “health” inserted: As a result, most area knowledge focuses on MSP and risk factors predicting pain and illnesses, rather than on factors predicting health improvement, especially for working individuals with MSP.
2. In the third sentence of the first paragraph on p 4 a comma is inserted after “high social class”.
3. In the first sentence of the second paragraph on p 4 a comma is inserted after “The data used”.
4. In the third sentence of the third paragraph on p 4 there are inserted capital letters and comma after the question.
5. In the first sentence of the first paragraph on p 6 there is inserted “A” before “single question”.
6. In the first sentence of the second paragraph on p 7 is the word “the” is inserted before “HUNT”.
7. In the first sentence of the first paragraph on p 8 (now last sentence p 7) there are inserted commas after the numbers 2, 3, and 6.
8. The first sentence of the second paragraph on p 8 is rewritten to “The variable work support was reversed so that a high score was “strongly agree,” and the variable work control was reversed so that a high score was “yes, often.”
9. In the second sentence of the second paragraph on p 8 is corrected. The sentence was “The items 10), 11), and 9) were excluded in factor analysis through reliability analysis because Cronbach’s alpha increased from .489 to .869, from .697 to .817 and from .721 to .747 respectively, which indicate that these items are measuring something else.
10. In the first sentence of the fifth paragraph on p 10 is a comma inserted after the word analysis.
11. In the third sentence of the second paragraph on p 11 two commas (after work control and 21%) and the word “by” are inserted. The sentence is now: “EXP(B) for work support, work control, and
work load indicated that when these variables increased by one unit each, the odds to be in the work group increased by 29%, 21%, and 16%, respectively.

12. In the fourth sentence of the third paragraph on p 11 is an “a” inserted.

13. In the fourth sentence of the first paragraph p 12 (now second sentence p 12) is changed to: “SRH are well known as a reliable health promoting resource.”

14. In the second sentence of the second paragraph on p 12 is the word “recognize” inserted in plural form.

15. In the first sentence of the second paragraph on p 13 is a comma inserted after the word “not”.

16. In the fifth sentence of the third paragraph on p 13 the word “could” is inserted. “The difference in this study, between female and male was only one fourth of the difference between the work group and sick leave group, which indicated that work support in the work group not could be explained with gender differences, as we tend to do.”

17. In the second sentence of the first paragraph on p 14 are grammar changes done. The sentence was “The purpose of self-assessment of health was to reflect health trajectories as personal and social resources [31] and it provided a formal means for the individual’s judgment to influence health.”

18. In the second sentence of the second paragraph on p 14 (now last sentence on p 13) was “hold” written in singular form “A consistent finding is that very simple summary health ratings hold surprising predictive validity for health.”

19. In the second sentence of the second paragraph on p 14 is “males” changed to plural form and the sentence was: “The work group reported higher levels of strength, than both females and males separately.”

20. In the first sentence of the third paragraph on p 14 is the word “only” moved and the sentence was: “According to Antonovsky, this tension can only be sorted out in a two-fold way, through problem-solving and regulation of emotions.”

21. In the last sentence on p 14 (now fourth sentence of the fourth paragraph on p 14) a comma was inserted after the word “predictable”.

22. In the third sentence of the second paragraph on p 15 (now the first sentence on p 15) is a hyphen after “over” inserted and the sentence was: “Second, because survey data is self-reported, they are subject for recall bias and over- and/or under estimating.”

23. In the first sentence of the third paragraph on p 15 is the word “an” deleted, “associations” is written in plural form, such was added and a comma after “control” were inserted. The sentence was: “The models specified and tested in two independent samples supported the research question that there are associations between health promoting resources such as SRH, feeling strong, absence of neuroticism, work load, work control, and work participation in people reporting MSP.”

24. In the first sentence of the fourth paragraph on p 15 is the word “sample” inserted. “The strength of the current study is the sample size, with over 50 000 participants who had completed a comprehensive range of assessments, including one established instrument which is EPQ.”

25. and 26. The second paragraph on p 16 is rewritten. “In general, knowledge of resources, predicting good health and work participation, should be used to optimize treatment strategies and health promotion programs for subjects with and without MSP. Although our data indicate associations between health promoting resources and work participation in people reporting MSP, it is important to provide further evidence on the causal relationship between these variables, using longitudinal and prospective studies in which changes in each variable may be controlled for over time with diagnostic criteria and/or and sick leave measures.”
In addition, minor corrections are performed:

1. In the last sentence on p 2 and top of p 3 there are added the words “what contributes”.
2. In the fourth sentence of the second paragraph on p 3 the word “for” is inserted. The sentence was “The consequence is that individuals seek help for…”
3. In the fourth sentence of the second paragraph on p 4 a comma is inserted after “self-administered questionnaire”.
4. In the first sentence of the third paragraph on p 7 is “in” inserted after “6 items”.
5. In the first sentence on p 8 the word “and” is deleted.
6. In the fourth sentence of the third paragraph on p 13 is “was” inserted after the word “social support”.
7. Fourth and fifth sentence of the second paragraph on p 14 are som revisions made: “Emotions are an important component in coping, and satisfying demands in the working life are a position of tension for the individual, where a feeling of strength could be an important resource. According to Antonovsky, this tension can only be sorted out in a two-fold way, through problem-solving and regulation of emotions [12]. It is possible that a feeling of strength is a result of the absence of neuroticism.”
8. In the last sentence of the third paragraph on p 15 is a comma inserted after “logistic regression analysis”.
9. Finally, a section about authors’ contributions is added on page 16 in the second paragraph.