Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors affecting knowledge and perception of women about smoking: a cross sectional study from a developing country

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Author's response to reviews: see over
January 14, 2011.

Dear Editor
BMC: Women’s Health

Subject: Responses on reviewer's comments on manuscript 1781377658438380

Thank you very much for making the valuable comments and suggestions on our submitted manuscript titled: ‘Factors affecting knowledge and perceptions of women about smoking: a cross-sectional study from a developing country’.

We have incorporated all the comments made by the reviewer and revised the manuscript accordingly. As suggested, we used ‘track changes’ mode in MS Word document.

In continuation, please find the sheet of point-by-point responses on the comments.

With thanks and best regards,

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Reviewer: Brian Flynn

Compulsory Revisions
1. In the revised manuscript, Methods section is described in more details
2. This survey was anonymous; we have now mentioned it in revised version.
3. As reviewer identified, we have now given the information about the recruitment and administration of survey.
4. Language used in this study was Urdu (national language of the country), now mentioned in methods section.
5. This survey was administered in primary care clinics situated in three slums of Karachi. This is now described in revised manuscript.
6. As highlighted by reviewer, additional detail about the survey development is now given including literature search, key words and papers used, validity checks and pre-testing of the questionnaire.
7. Responses were in ‘Yes, No and Do not know’ options. We have given the description of these responses in revised manuscript.

Essential Revisions
1. It is now mentioned that the prevalence of smoking rates for males and females cited in paragraph 2 of Background section is for Pakistan.
2. As highlighted by reviewer, transition sentences are written to bridge the review of health risks to the requirements for effective intervention described in the final paragraph of this section.
3. As suggested, references are cited to provide the stages of change model described in the final paragraph.
4. This survey has not measure tobacco use other than cigarette smoking. We have identified this point as study limitation and now mentioned in paragraph of limitations.
5. Tables 2 and 3 are revised according to reviewer’s comments.
6. We have incorporated the suggestions made by reviewer on page 13.
7. As suggested, we have now mentioned about the tobacco use behaviors, knowledge, and attitudes of health care providers in the discussion section.

Discretionary Revisions
1. We have now incorporated the changes in conclusion as recommended by reviewer.
Reviewer: Chizimuzo Okoli

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The study conducted among women attending clinics in three 'slums' of Karachi. We have now given the description of these slums in methods section. These slums are identical to most of the slums of Karachi. Nevertheless, we have now mentioned the generalizibility in the section of limitations, as suggested by reviewer.
2. Each question is based on a 'yes/no/do not know' response choice. Less than 10% of the total questions were responded as ‘do not know’ so we merged these responses as ‘no’. We have now described this information in methods section.

Minor essential revisions
1. We have now revised the manuscript for grammatical errors as well.

Discretionary revisions
1. As suggested by reviewer, we have now incorporated the changes in tables 2 and 3 in revised manuscript.
Reviewer: Joan M Brewster

Discretionary Revisions
1. As suggested by reviewer, we have now mentioned the names of countries which were included in cited world survey.
2. We have now incorporated the reviewer’s suggestion about recommending the availability of basic primary education to women.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Revision made in result section of abstract as highlighted by reviewer.
2. Last line of the abstract is corrected as identified by reviewer.
3. Suggestion was incorporated in background section as per reviewers report.
4. Corrected result section as highlighted by reviewer.
5. Tables 2 and 3 were incorporated as suggested by reviewer.
6. As recommended by reviewer, descriptions of labels are now given as foot note in table 2 and 3.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Title is rephrased as suggested by reviewer.
2. As suggested by reviewer, the importance of smoking by women in the lowest socioeconomic group is described with the support of recent literature.
3. With the support of the references, we have now make it more clear about the importance of knowledge towards anti-tobacco attitude and practices in revised version of the manuscript.
4. We rephrased the list of “questions” in methods section as suggested by reviewer.
5. As highlighted by reviewer, in methods section we have now described the questions about infertility and osteoporosis. As described in results section, none of the women knew about these effects, hence they are not presented in table 2.
6. We have now mentioned the limitation of generalizibility as suggested by reviewer. We also described that all women of 18 years and above whether patient or attendant were approached for inclusion in the study.
7. We have now given the asterisk in table 2 and 3 indicating significance is placed, as identified by reviewer.
   We have also reported the frequencies in table 2 and 3 and percentages in brackets as suggested by reviewer.