Reviewer's report

Title: Comparing health-related quality of life of employed women and housewives: a cross sectional study from southeast Iran

Version: 7 Date: 22 August 2012

Reviewer: Maryam Tajvar

Reviewer's report:

Dear Ms Wella Valenzuela,

I have re-reviewed the revised manuscript, submitted by the authors in response to our original comments.

I would generally state that the authors have had great efforts to improve the quality of the manuscript and response to the questions. I believe that the manuscript would be good enough for publication after doing some further amendments (mainly in the DISCUSSION section of the paper) and addressing some more issues as listed below:

Although I believe that the authors can be trusted to make these amendments, I would consider the following list as “Major Compulsory Revisions” because of their importance:

Dear authors:

You had three main sets of findings summarised at the beginning of the DISCUSSION section: 1) no statistically significant difference between the quality of life of the groups; 2) poorer physical functioning status among employed group; 3) main difference in mental health aspect rather than physical health aspect between the groups.

1) Regarding the first item, I believe that you have tried to ignore the non significant differences and tended to overemphasis on the differences. I think alongside what you have already discussed, you could also discuss on why and how non workers and workers have had rather similar health status like the interesting discussion of your Ref No 19 in the second paragraph of Discussion section. Thus, please discuss more on the reasons for non-significant differences between the groups. For example, the rather low power of your study (small sample size) could be one justification. Work-related stresses, etc… could be another justification.

2) With regard to the second item, although again statistically non significant, please discuss why housewives had higher physical functioning scores compared to the employed women, despite other domains.

3) Also, regrading the third item, please discuss why comparatively the differences were more related to psychological health aspect rather than physical health aspect.

4) In the second paragraph of Discussion, you have mentioned that your findings
were consistent with the results of similar studies conducted in Iran [16-18]. Please add one paragraph to summarise the findings of Refs 16-18 and compare them with your own findings.

Apart from the above comments please once more check carefully for the spelling errors of the manuscripts. Also the manuscript still needs to be edited grammatically and for English. Formatting of the references also needs to be unified and edited.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'