Author's response to reviews

Title: Determinants of sexual health knowledge in adolescent girls in schools of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: a cross sectional study

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Version: 3 Date: 20 March 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Revised Submission of article titled “Determinants of sexual health knowledge in adolescent girls in schools of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: a cross sectional study”

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending us the reviewers comments. We have read them carefully and tried to address/answer them. Kindly find the responses mentioned below as well as in the main proposal.

Response to the comments of Reviewer

Title: Determinants of sexual health knowledge among adolescent girls in schools of Riyadh city, Saudi Arabia
Response Date: 20\textsuperscript{th} March 2013
Reviewer: Artemis Tsitsika

Discretionary Revisions

Although the sample was drawn from a voluntary association which may have resulted in a non-representative sample that would limit the ability to generalize the results to the general population. Self reported questionnaires by young people usually suffer from non completion of a series of questions or provision of unreliable information. How have the authors checked for the reliability of replies? Therefore, limitations should be expanded to include potential selection bias of cases (unless can provide evidence to the contrary).

Response: we agree with the reviewer regarding the limitation with self reported questionnaires. There was no mechanism to avoid this bias and it has been added to the section under limitations, page 13, last para line 13-15

A study of this nature would have benefited from more qualitative approaches (that might have provided at least some clues to the direction of causality), such as a systematic comparison of the study data with those from international and regional ones). In fact the ms could be strengthened with a systematic review to be undertaken aiming to improve the comparison of these results with those of previous or similar studies for example, should include comparison to adult studies and briefly explain why results may be different. In general, the comparison of these results with those of previous studies should be improved.

Response: This is the first study conducted in Saudi Arabia on the sexual health knowledge of adolescent girls. A systematic review is a good suggestion and can be undertaken in future. We have tried to make the comparison with the regional data (Middle East countries) and have added the information in the "discussion" accordingly; [Page 10, para 1 line 3-4], [page 11, 1\textsuperscript{st} para line 7-10 and 2\textsuperscript{nd} para line 4-9], [page 12, 1\textsuperscript{st} para line 9-12 and 2\textsuperscript{nd} para line 7-11] [page 13, 2\textsuperscript{nd} para line 2-3].
Given the study design and the type of data used, the authors should avoid over-interpreting the results. As expected, however, the specific dataset and methodology employed in this paper do not allow generation of any novel hypotheses over and beyond what is already known in the literature. The authors should be more precise on the prevention measures that should be recommended following the results of their study.

Response: **the preventive measures have been explicitly spelled and recommendations made under the heading of "Conclusion and recommendation", page 14, 2nd para line 4-10.**

**Reviewer: Hsiang-Chu Pai**

Comment on Abstract
The aims of the study are suggested to be stated in more concrete way. The relevant factors of sexual knowledge are quite extensive that the authors should indicate the research factors of this study directly. And consistent with the authors states that on page 4 (line 8 to10): “We hypothesize that factors related to parent, friends and school will be significant in determining the sexual knowledge of adolescents in ....”.

Response: **the aim of the study has been revised under the heading "Abstract-Background", page 2, 1st para line 2-3**

Comment on Methodology
The authors did not explain why they selected only one item to represent the sexual knowledge for adolescent girls. Reliability and validity are not reported for the data collection instruments/questionnaires, and should be added as available and/or attainable.

Response: **Sexual health knowledge was determined through questions specifically defined for this research study, are culturally acceptable and feasible to ask. Items for assessing the knowledge were discussed with experts (health providers and teachers) and are part of the validated instrument Miller Fisk sexual health questionnaire but we were not able to measure the validity and reliability of these items. Page 13, 2nd para line 2-9.**

In sample size and sampling methodology section, the authors need to explain more details for sampling and sample power.

Response: **details have been added to sampling strategy and power, page 4, last para and page 5, 1st para**

Comment on: Result and Discussion
2. There is a minor mistake on Page11 (line 4): “For elder adolescents, parent's role was not found as an important determinant of sexual knowledge.” Should be “not found as an important”

Response: **correction has been done page 11, 2nd para, first line**

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*Thank you & best regards,
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