Reviewer's report

Title: Health Belief Mode constructs as factors associated with Breast Self-Examination behavior in a sample of women in Bandar Abass, Iran

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Reviewer: Nursen O Nahcivan

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This version of manuscript seems much improved but is still not reached a publishable standard. My comments are below. I hope this comments are helpful for the authors.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Page 3, last paragraph, the authors state that “Despite the well-known benefits of BSE, studies indicate that the rate of breast cancer screening test like BSE is lower than expected”, but no reference is presented for this assertion. Is BSE presumed as a breast cancer screening test?

2. Page 5, second paragraph, What do the authors mean when they write that “in this study the health motivation subscale was not used because this variable is not a separate construct of HBM (21, 24)”? It is not clear for the readers, please rewrite the sentence in a more clear way.

3. The term of BSE measure is still confusing due to response categories. For example, why did the authors label the BSE measures in different forms such as performing/not performing? performers/non performers? BSE practising/never performed? With and without BSE behavior? Which one is preferred? Also, the authors mention that “BSE has been considered REGULAR if it had been done one time per month for at least three months (n=17) ”, and “BSE has been considered IRREGULAR if it has not been done monthly or been done less than three months (n=59) ” in Table 1. Later, authors refer to perform BSE behavior as yes (n=76, regular and irregular) and no (n=164, never doing). Therefore;

a. Page 9, third paragraph, the interpretation is misleading. “The results of this study showed that participants who performed BSE monthly, perceived more BSE benefits, less BSE barriers and more BSE self-efficacy than those who did not this behavior on regular (?) basis.”

b. Also, in the abstract, the sentence “Perceived benefits/barriers and perceived self efficacy of the studied women who performed breast self examination regularly (?) were significantly higher than those who did not it(?) (p < 0.03)” should be corrected.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The title: The words “Bandar Abbas” should be removed from The title sentence. The word “mode” should be corrected as “model”.

2. The words “Bandar Abbas” ? Bandar Abass? should be rewritten in correct style in the text.

3. Selecting every tenth women is not selected at random. I think the word randomly should be removed from the description of the sample selection process.

4. Page 5, in Third paragraph, There is a spelling mistake in the words “Sebahat and Ilknur”.

5. In table 1: only the education level of “primary , secondary ve university” are written. But “high school” or the education years of “9-11 years” should be added.

6. There are spelling errors in the references 26 and 27. These should be corrected.

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests