Author's response to reviews

Title: Review of National Research Ethics Regulations and Guidelines in Middle Eastern Arab Countries

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for the feedback on our regard our paper titled “Research ethics in the Middle East: A review of national research ethics regulations and guidelines.” We would like to also express also our appreciation to the reviewers for the notes they provided. Here, we would like to address these remarks.

1. The complete article has been edited by a native English speaker.
2. Title: The title was changed to specify the region that our study was concerned with (p.1). (Reviewers 2 & 3).
3. Abstract: Further details of the results were provided (pp. 2, 3). (Reviewer 2)
4. Background:
   a. The "Code of William Beaumont" was added (p. 4). (Reviewer 1)
   b. The subtitle: "Are international research ethics guidelines a proper measure to …" was included (p. 4) (Reviewer 2)
   c. The latest version of the international guidelines was mentioned (p. 4)
5. Methodology:
   a. Our focus in this article is only Arabic countries in the Middle East, and there are only 13 countries (p. 6) (Reviewer 3)
   b. A defined comparison method was made clear (p. 7). (Reviewer 2)
6. Discussion: We clarified the subtitle: "Economic power leads advances" (p. 14) (Reviewer 2)
7. References:
   a. The references were formatted according to the guidelines for authors. (Reviewer 1)
   b. A list of readings was included. One of the authors of these readings was consulted directly (p. 1). (Reviewer 1)
8. Tables:
   a. *, **, and *** were changed to I, II, and III (Table 1). (Reviewer 2)
   b. The column related to five countries without national guidelines was deleted from Table 2 (Table 2). (Reviewer 2)
9. Declaration of competing interests: We declared that we have no competing interests. This was added between the Conclusions and Authors (p. 22).
10. Authors' contribution: This was added (p. 22).

Thank you again for your e-mail and to all reviewers for their valuable advice.

Kind regards,