Author’s response to reviews

Title: Outcome of a research ethics training workshop among clinicians and scientists in a Nigerian university

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewer’s comments
Reviewer: Wendy A Rogers

Title: Outcome of a research ethics training workshop among clinicians and scientists in a Nigerian university

Comment: The paper requires minor revisions and checking for English language (e.g. on page 12, the word “dissent’ appears rather than ‘consent’) and there are several minor punctuation and typographical errors.

Response: We have corrected the error on page 12; the word “dissent’ has been changed to “consent”. We have also corrected all the typographical errors in our earlier draft.

The paper has also been copy-edited as recommended by the editor of BMC Medical Ethics.

Reviewer’s report
Reviewer: Michael Kalichman

2. Response rate: This isn’t quite clear. Am I correct in assuming that it was purely coincidental that 97 persons completed the pre-post test and 97 completed the post-test, but the authors don’t know whether the persons completing the post test the same as those completing the pre-test?

Response: Yes, it was coincidental that 97 persons completed both the pre-test and post-tests.

8. Ethical Challenges:
The change in the text is helpful, but it doesn’t resolve the problem that participants were being asked to rank items of different qualities. For example, if we asked people to tell us to rank: eating, food, and orange in order of importance, how should we interpret the choice of ranking any one of these items over the other two?

Response: Participants were requested to rank the topics based on their perception of the importance of each topic; the purpose of doing this was to give FGD participants a chance to select topics that they would want included in the training workshop. Fortunately, all topics listed were eventually covered at the workshop.

11. Implementation of workshops and measures
Although English is defined as the official language in Nigeria, my understanding is that for most people, including the likely participants in the workshop, it is not a first language. It may be that there are cultural and linguistic issues that would get in the way of understanding the questions asked or the answers given.

Response: It is true that most Nigerians learnt English as a second language. However, the participants at the workshop are lecturers in a university where English is the language of instruction. These persons are savvy with use of English having learnt this
language for about 16 years at the primary, secondary and university levels. Secondly, the fact that the resource persons provided several examples of the local application of the topics covered during the workshop may have reduced the possibility that cultural and linguistic issues will affect participants’ understanding and answering of answers.