Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between social capital and health-related quality of life among left behind and not left behind older people in rural China

Authors:

yaqin zhong (yqzhong@ntu.edu.cn)
Pär Schön (Par.Schon@ki.se)
Bo Burström (Bo.Burstrom@ki.se)
Kristina Burström (Kristina.Burstrom@ki.se)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

We have revised the manuscript under your comments.

1. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section please confirm whether written consent was obtained from participants. If written consent was not obtained, please explain why not.

In line 394-395, we stated that “Respondents gave written informed consent before inclusion in the study.”

2. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section please include an approval reference number given to you by the IRB that approved this study.

In line 392, we stated “The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Nantong University (no. 2013-120).”

3. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of PS, BB and KB as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to the listed tasks alone, does not usually justify authorship.

From line 383 to 386, we stated that “YZ carried out the study, participated in the survey and had the main responsibility for writing the manuscript. PS drafted some parts of discussion sections and interpreted the results. BB supervised the data analysis and revised the manuscript. KB directed this study in data analysis and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.”
4. Please represent authors' names using their full initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

We have revised authors’ names using full initials.

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

We have done these under your comments.