Author’s response to reviews

Title: Television viewing and child cognition in a longitudinal birth cohort in Singapore: The role of maternal factors

Authors:

Ramkumar Aishworiya (aishworiya_ramkumar@Nuhs.edu.sg)
Shirong Cai (obgcais@nus.edu.sg)
Helen Chen (helen.chen.y@singhealth.com.sg)
Desiree Phua (desiree_phua@sics.a-star.edu.sg)
Birit Broekman (b.broekman@vumc.nl)
Lourdes Daniel (mary.daniel@singhealth.com)
Yap Chong (obgcys@nus.edu.sg)
Lynette Shek (paeshekl@nus.edu.sg)
Fabian Yap (fabian.yap.k.p@singhealth.com.sg)
Shiao-Yng Chan (obgchan@nus.edu.sg)
Michael Meaney (michael.meaney@mcgill.ca)
Evelyn Law (evelyn_law@nuhs.edu.sg)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Tsai and the Editorial team,

Thank you for considering our manuscript titled ‘Television viewing and child cognition in a longitudinal birth cohort in Singapore: The role of maternal factors’ and giving us this opportunity to address the reviewer comments. We would also like to thank the reviewers Dr Namaitijiang Maimaiti and Dr Josephat Maduabuchi Chinawa for taking the time to review and give their comments. We have been able to address all the comments from both the reviewers and have enclosed herewith the revised manuscript text for your consideration. A detailed response to each of the comments is given below.
Reviewer 1 Comments and suggestions

1. Title should include study location – The title has been amended in page 1 of the main manuscript text to include the words ‘in Singapore’.

2. Line 34, study design must be written beginning of the methods of the study. The study design was written in the abstract line, it should also mention in the main test of the manuscript – This was a longitudinal prospective cohort study design; this has now been included in the first sentence of the Methods section in page 7 (line 21) of the main manuscript text.

3. Line 51, three major ethnicities in Singapore Chinese Malays and Indian, the question is what language did you use for data collection? – English was the primary language used for data collection with back-translated questionnaires provided for care givers whose primary language was not English. For copyrighted materials, we obtained license agreements with the publisher of the questionnaires for translation into the local languages. The above has now been included from line 6 onwards in page 8 (1st Methods paragraph).

4. It was mentioned three different ethnic group was involved in the study but there is no information was given proportion of Chinese Malay and Indian. – The study cohort comprised of 55.9% Chinese, 26.1% Malay and 18.0% Indian. This information has now been added as a separate sentence in the 1st paragraph of the methods section in page 8 (line 2).

5. I was wondering if the researchers tested is there any differences on TV viewing duration among the three ethnic groups. – We have analysed this following this review and we note that there is a significant difference in TV viewing between the 3 ethnic groups with children of Malay ethnicity having significantly more TV time than Chinese and Indian ethnicity (F = 9.07, p < 0.001). This is consistent with other previous studies from this cohort. This sentence has since been included in the first paragraph of the results section in page 10.
Reviewer 2 Comments:

The article title" Television viewing and child cognition in a longitudinal birth cohort: The role of maternal factors" is well written with good statistical analysis and conclusion. This paper should be published in its present form. However the burden and prevalence of Television viewing and child cognition influenced by maternal factors should be well reviewed in the last paragraph of the introduction with justification of the study following. – As the burden of TV viewing in children and the potential role of maternal factors has been detailed in the paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the introduction, we have in addition, now explained how TV viewing and maternal factors are linked in the last paragraph of the introduction to further justify the study aims (Page 7, line 7 onwards).

We hope that you will find this revised manuscript suitable for publication in your journal. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ramkumar Aishworiya

Corresponding Author

Consultant, Specialist Accreditation in Paediatric Medicine

Child Development Unit

Khoo Teck Puat – University Children’s Medical Institute

National University Hospital, Singapore