Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment and application of the Chinese Resident Health Literacy Scale using item response theory: a population-based sample in south China

Authors:

Minxue Shen (shenmx1988@gmail.com)
Ming Hu (xysm2011@yeah.net)
Siyun Liu (526909968@qq.com)
Yan Chang (1434913057@qq.com)
Zhenqiu Sun (szq@xysm.net)

Version: 2
Date: 5 March 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter to editorial board

Dear editorial board of BMC Public Health,

We would like to submit the enclosed manuscript entitled "Assessment and application of the Chinese Resident Health Literacy Scale using item response theory: a population-based sample in south China", which we wish to be considered for publication in BMC Public Health. All co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of the manuscript and there is no financial interest to report. The manuscript has not been previously published, is not currently submitted for review to any other journal, and will not be submitted elsewhere before a decision is made by this journal.

In this manuscript, we reported the assessment and application of a health literacy scale that was used in 2012 national health literacy survey in China. A population-based sample of 3731 participants in Hunan province was used for the evaluation and item selection of the instrument, and item response theory and classical test theory were both used in the procedure of scale assessment. A revised scale with strong psychometric properties and free of obvious measurement invariance was finally established. Associations between health literacy with socio-demographic factors were also examined. It is the first study that evaluated and revised the health literacy scale in public health settings in China. The new instrument can be used in researches of health literacy in public health setting and can provide useful implications for future studies on health literacy.

We hope that the editorial board will agree on the interest of the study. Sincerely yours,

Minxue Shen, on behalf of the authors.

Corresponding author: Ming Hu  M.D.  Ph.D.
Affiliation: Department of Epidemiology and Health Statistics, School of Public Health, Central South University
Address: 110 Xiangya Road, Kaifu District, Changsha City, Hunan Province, P.R. China, 410078
Email: xysm2011@yeah.net
Phone numbers: 86-731-84805466 (office), 86-13574840597 (cell phone)
Fax number: 86-731-84805454