Author’s response to reviews

Title: A randomised controlled trial of an educational intervention to promote safe behaviours in petrochemical workers: a study protocol

Authors:

Azita Zahiri Harsini (azitazahiri@modares.ac.ir)

Fazlollah Ghofranipour (GHOFRANF@modares.ac.ir)

Hormoz Sanaeinasab (sanei1343@bmsu.ac.ir)

Farkhondeh Amin Shokravi (aminsh_f@modares.ac.ir)

Version: 1 Date: 11 May 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Response to Reviewer #1

We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and their valuable comments. We have seriously considered and addressed all reviewer comments giving point-to-point responses.

# Response to major points

1- The aim of study in the methods section have been deleted. (Methods section, line 1, page 4)

2- Ethical considerations and obtaining informed consent to participate have been provided. (Methods section, study design, line 4, page 4)

# Response to minor points

Abstracts

1- In the methods, second sentence has been revised (Abstract section, methods, line 2, page 1).

Background (the whole section has been revised; sentences have been edited and some references have been updated)
1- The first paragraph has been revised and amendments have been made to provide more clarification (Background section, first paragraph, line 1-28, page 2).

2- The second paragraph has been revised and more detail has been presented (Background section, second paragraph, line 1-23 (whole paragraph), page 2-3).

3- The third paragraph which consists of published data from Iran has been reformulated. Also, some update references have been added (Background section, third paragraph, line 1-9, page 3).

4- This reference has been revised and redundant terms have been omitted (Background section, first paragraph, line 21-24, page 2).

5- This sentence has been revised (Background section, first paragraph, line 27 (the last line but one in the first paragraph), page 2).

6- This sentence has been revised by information in the second paragraph (the importance of workers' knowledge and other factors). (Background section, second paragraph, line 1-23 (whole paragraph), page 2-3).

7- The research question has been reformulated in one main question (Background section, Aims and research question, line 9, page 4).

8- The overall aim and specific objectives have been reformulated in a measurable form (Background section, Aims and research question, line 1, page 4).

9- The interview questions have been reformulated (Methods section, Phase one: Qualitative exploration, Data Collection, line 2, page 6).

10- This paragraph has been deleted and a particular paragraph has been replaced: ‘The interviews will be audiotaped…’ (Methods section, Phase one: Qualitative exploration, Data Collection, line 8 (before Data Analysis), page 6).

Response to reviewer #2

Response to reviewer comments

1- In ‘Phase two: Questionnaire survey’, information on how the questionnaire will be designed or developed have been provided. It should be noted that specific information is not available due to uncertain outcomes of the former phases of the study (Methods section, ‘Phase two: Questionnaire survey’ and ‘Questionnaire’, second paragraph: “In present study…” up to Phase three, page 7).
2- Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT) has been reformulate and consist of “Intervention” part so that detailed information has been provided on how the intervention will be distributed to the participants and what will be done for the control group. (Methods section, Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT), page 8).

Response to requested revisions

1- The overall aim and specific objectives have been reformulated in a measurable form (Background section, Aims and research question, line 1, page 4).

2- The description of the questionnaire has been revised; detailed information on how the conceptual model will be used to measure safe work behaviours has been presented in Phase two: Questionnaire survey and ‘Questionnaires’ part. (Methods section, ‘Phase two: Questionnaire survey’ and ‘Questionnaire’, second paragraph: “In present study…” up to Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT), page 7).

3- Information on how the sample size will be determined and how the distribution of participants will be to intervention and control group have been provided in Methods section (Methods section, Study sample, Setting and sample size, whole paragraph, page 5).

4- More detail on what the intervention will be exactly and which treatment the control group participants will get, what the outcome measure will be and how they will be analysed has been presented in Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT) and ‘Intervention’ part. Then data analysis process has been described in second paragraph of ‘intervention’ part: ‘Analyses will be conducted…’ (Methods section, Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT), page 8).

Response to additional requests/suggestions

1- The manuscript has been edited by a native speaker in English at the University of Sydney in Australia.

2- Some references have been amended such as Waters and Duncan, 2001 instead of Robert and Michael, 2001 (Methods section, Study sample, Setting and sample size, line 3, reference number 47, page 5) and some updated references have been replaced such as Shin and colleagues, 2015 instead of Heinrich, 1931 (paragraph content is maintained), (Background section, first paragraph, line 21, reference number 14, page 2).

Additional revisions
In addition to responding to reviewers' comments, we have made further amendments and tried our best to improve the manuscript.

1- Abstract has been amended (Abstract, Methods section, line 2 and 10, page 1).

2- Background has been revised, sentences have been reformulated and some references have been updated (Background section, page 2-3).

3- Aims and research question have been reformulated in a measurable form (Background section, Aims and research question, line 1-11, page 4).

4- Methods section has been revised. It has been composed of CONSORT flow diagram of the study design. The aim of the study in the methods section has been deleted and a description of CONSORT flow diagram has been replaced (Methods section, line 1, page 4).

5- Study design has been reformulated; ethical considerations and obtaining informed consent to participate have been provided. (Methods section, study design, page 4).

6- Approach to interviewing has been deleted from the Methods sections and moved to the Phase one: Qualitative exploration (Methods section, study design, page 4).

7- ‘Participant recruitment and eligibility criteria’ part of ‘Study sample’ in the Methods section has been revised and detailed information has been provided (Methods section, study sample, Participant recruitment and eligibility criteria, page 4-5).

8- ‘Setting and sample size’ part of ‘Study sample’ in Methods section have been reformulated and references have been revised (Methods section, study sample, setting and sample size, page 5).

9- Measure (three phases of the study) has been revised (Methods section, measure, line 3-9, page 5).

10- The title of phase one has been amended (Methods section, Phase one: Qualitative exploration, page 6).

11- Sections of the first phase have been revised; Approach to interviewing has been moved to this phase and some amendments have been made to this part (Methods section, Phase one: Qualitative exploration, Approach to interviewing, page 6).

12- Data collection has been specified separately and the interview questions are included at this section (Methods section, Phase one: Qualitative exploration, Data Collection, line 2, page 6).
13- Data Analysis has been specified separately. The process of involving coding and identifying themes and also the steps of qualitative content analysis have been classified (Methods section, Phase one: Qualitative exploration, Data Analysis, page 6-7).

14- The title of phase two has been amended (Methods section, Phase two: Questionnaire survey, page 8).

15- Phase two: Questionnaire survey has been revised and more information on how the qualitative data from phase one will be used to design the conceptual model and measure safe behaviour has been provided (Methods section, Phase two: Questionnaire survey, line 1 up to Phase three, page 7).

16- The description of the questionnaires has been improved (Methods section, Phase two: Questionnaire survey, Questionnaires, line 1-6, page 7).

17- Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT), a description of the RCT has been provided (Methods section, Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT), first paragraph, line 1-7: ‘The randomised controlled trials (RCTs) is the basic…’, page 8).

18- A detailed description on what will be the intervention exactly, how the intervention will be distributed to the participants and what will be done for the control group have been provided in “Intervention”, and then in the next paragraph how data will be analysed have been described as well (Methods section, Phase three: Randomised controlled trial (RCT), Intervention, first paragraph: line 1-18, page 8 and second paragraph: line 1-10, page 8).

19- Discussion section has been revised and sufficient information on the strengths and limitations of the study has been presented (Discussion section, line 1-22, page 9).

20- In ‘Abbreviations’ section, CBPR: community-based participatory research has been deleted (Abbreviations sections, abbreviation number 5, page 10).

21- Acknowledgements section has been revised; the manuscript has been edited by a native speaker in English: Ms. Patricia Corbett, course administrator, at the University of Sydney in Australia (Acknowledgements section, page 10).

22- In Author details section, the affiliation of Professor Sanaeinasab has been amended (Author details section, affiliation number 2, page 10).

23- The reference style has been updated; the reference style for BMC public health has been used (References section, page 11-14).

24- Figure legends section has been included after the References (Figure legends section, page 14).