Author's response to reviews

Title: Stress, health and quality of life of female migrant domestic workers in Singapore: A cross-sectional study

Authors:

Sabrina Anjara (sga29@medschl.cam.ac.uk)
Chiara Bonetto (chiara.bonetto@univr.it)
Laura Nellums (L.Nellums@imperial.ac.uk)
Tine Van Bortel (tv250@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

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Dear Ben and the and the editorial board of BMC Women’s Health,

We appreciate the value of the review process, and that this can require it to be lengthy. Thank you for your reply regarding our manuscript BMHW-D-16-00092 "The impact of stress, social isolation, and working management style on the quality of life and health of female foreign domestic workers in Singapore."

Thank you for your query with regards to whether an ethics committee in Singapore was consulted for our study, which was conducted in Singapore, but for which ethical approval was obtained from the UK.

This was a community-based study and was not a health services study. Whilst it is of course true that health services research involving patients would require full ethical approval from both countries, as this research was with community members and no patients or health services were involved, it was determined that no ethical approval in Singapore was required from any medical or health bodies. As you noted, ethical approval was received from the sponsoring institution in the UK (King’s College London Psychiatry, Nursing and Midwifery Research Ethics Committee). This did not need to be duplicated by ethical approval from any university/academic bodies in Singapore as the university sponsoring the research was based in the UK. In addition, we were also in contact with Dr. John Gee (Foreign Domestic Workers Association for the entirety of Singapore), and full support and approval from this NGO was provided to conduct this research with their clients.

The following addition has been made to the manuscript in relation to this query:
"This was a community-based study and not a health services study, and thus ethical approval was not needed from medical or health bodies in Singapore as this research was with community members and no patients or health services were involved."

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or require any further information.

Kind regards,

~Laura Nellums