Author's response to reviews

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

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Aronin and reviewers Dr. Thambiah and Dr. Siqueira,

Thank you for your consideration of manuscript BMWH-D-16-00092R2 “Stress, health and quality of life of female migrant domestic workers in Singapore: A cross-sectional study,” and for the opportunity to revise our paper based on your constructive and positive comments.

We are pleased to submit a revised manuscript and a point-by-point response to your comments, which we hope you will find acceptable for publication. We include a clean version of the revised manuscript, as requested in the decision letter. Below we have included your comments followed by our responses.

Thank you all for your time and consideration, and we look forward to the prospect of publishing our research in BMC Women’s Health.

Sincerely,
The authors

Editor comments to the author:

1. We note that you have changed the order of authors. Please submit a change of authorship form.
Thank you for noting this change, which all authors agreed upon following the first version of the manuscript, and which we amended in the revision we submitted. We have submitted a change of authorship form to the e-mail address provided, which is also attached as a supplementary document here.

2. Please remove all color and shading from your tables.

Thank you for this formatting guidance, and we have removed the colour and shading from our tables.

3. Please submit a clean copy of your manuscript without highlighting and with track changes turned off.

Our revised submission is a clean copy of our manuscript without highlighting and with track changes turned off.

Reviewers' Comments to Author:

Thank you both for reviewing our previous iterations of this manuscript, and your constructive and helpful feedback.

Reviewer 1: Dr Shanthi Thambiah

Thank you for your comment that you think the revised version of the manuscript is publishable and for your additional feedback.

1. The title needs to be tidied up - "Stress, health and quality of life of female migrant domestic workers in Singapore: A cross-sectional study"

Thank you for this suggestion, and we have changed the title accordingly.

2. Rework the conclusion by drawing on the findings of the study before proceeding to make policy recommendations etc. Rest day or the day off policy can be mentioned but this was not the main focus of the study.

This is helpful feedback, and we have revised the conclusion to reflect these suggestions. We have sought to draw on and summarise the findings of the study in the first paragraph of the conclusion, as well as reducing the emphasis on the day off policy.
3. The manuscript needs to be proof read.

Thank you, and we have proof read and amended the manuscript.

Reviewer 2: Dr Carlos Siqueira

Thank you for reviewing this revised version of our manuscript, and your helpful feedback.

1. The paragraph "Participants were holders of a Work Permit, meeting the criteria for a ‘foreign domestic worker’ as stated by the Singapore government [16], and had access to days off with non-standard frequency. Proficiency in English and a minimum of 8 years of formal education are criteria for a Work Permit in Singapore, and thus all participants were found to have sufficient proficiency to understand and fully engage with the questionnaires." was wrongly moved from the section participants and materials to statistical analysis. I think that the authors may have misunderstood comments made. The right place for this paragraph is in the participants and materials section.

Thank you for noting this, and we have moved this section to the first paragraph of ‘Participants & materials’.