Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of dysmenorrhea among university students in northern Ghana; its impact and management strategies

Authors:

Evans Ameade (sokpesh@yahoo.com)

Anthony Amalba (anthonamalba@yahoo.com)

Baba Mohammed (mbsule@yahoo.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Comment #1

We note that the order of authors has changed since original submission of the manuscript. In line with COPE guidelines, BioMed Central requires written confirmation from all authors that they agree with any proposed changes in authorship of submitted manuscripts or published articles.

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Response #1

The was no change in authorship but the order of arrangement of the authors. Originally, the three authors were in the same department, that is, Department of Human Biology which have subsequently been divided into several other departments. The first author and Baba Sulemana Mohammed are in the same department of Pharmacology while Anthony Amalba is now in the Department of Health Professions Education and Innovative Learning. Should I maintain the original order, Anthony Amalba who was in the middle would have a superscript 2 before his name and then Baba Sulemana who was placed third would have 1 before his name since he is in the same department as the lead author. I have however reverted to the original order as
requested. Since there is no change in authorship, and I have changed the order back to the original script, do I still need to get the authors to complete a form?

Comment #2

In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please confirm if an ethics committee approved the procedure for verbal consent, and why they felt the need for written consent was not necessary for this study. Please also detail how you documented the consent. This overlap mainly exists in your methods section

Response #2

Approval given by the ethics committee indicated the consent of the respondents being sought. Before the administration of the questionnaire, respondents were told verbally that should any of them be picked through the random sampling, they had the choice to decline the collection of the questionnaire. Some respondents declined the collection of the questionnaire so they were not compelled against their will. Also, in the introductory section of the questionnaire, this was what was stated. “This research is for academic purpose. I hereby crave your indulgence to partake in this research. Accepting to complete this questionnaire suggests you have consented to being part of the research. Please answer all the questions and do them with all sincerity and honesty as far as your memory can recall. Thanks very much”

Comment #3

We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of BSM and AA as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to the manuscript alone, does not usually justify authorship.

Response #3

After conceiving the idea, the topic was discussed with them for their input and support. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author is one should have among others have been involved in drafting of the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content. BSM and AA were involved in the drafting of the manuscript and did revisions to the original script hence they qualify as authors.
Comment #4

Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Response #4

That had been done.

Comment #5

Figure files should contain only the image, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If legends are present within the figure files, please remove them. Please remove the figure legend from your figure (this is the description of the figure).

Response #5

That had been done as well.