Author’s response to reviews

Title: Menstrual Characteristics, Disorders And Associated Risk Factors Among Female International Students In Zhejiang Province, China: A cross-sectional survey.

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Author’s response to reviews:

The Editor-In-Chief,
BMC, Women’s Health.

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to comments and suggestions concerning our article (ID: BMWH-D-17-00227R1): Menstrual Characteristics, Disorders and Associated Risk Factors among Female International Students in Zhejiang Province, China. We would like to express out utmost gratitude to reviewers for taking time and effort to read and give helpful suggestions to help improve our manuscript. We have therefore addressed major concerns below.

1. As per the editor’s comment we have included the study design to the title of the study.
2. The editor also raised some concern about sentence overlap with some already existing publications. Regarding that, we have to the best of ability revised and corrected all those sentences.
3. In answer to the editor’s last comment about whether or not the questionnaires were in English and how their English proficiency ascertained.

Response: All questionnaires were in English and the respondents gave verbal acknowledgment of the fact that they could read and understand English. Where further clarifications were necessary, our field agents were there to assist.

DG Dambhare (Reviewer 1): Comments concerning Materials and Method:

1. How were the authors asked menstrual changes before and after arrival to China? :
Response: We asked them to characterize their menstrual patterns before they arrived to China and also indicate any observable changes in terms of regularity of menstrual cycle, duration and length, amount of menstrual flow and nature of associated menstrual symptoms after their arrival to China.

2. The authors must mention about items 4, 5, 7, & 8. There should be simple scoring for PSS:

Response: We have revised the information on the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS). Our search through literature shows they have been described in like manner. And we have also added how they are scored.

DG Dambhare (Reviewer 1): Comments concerning Results:

1. Why the authors were compare between change and no change (what could be the objective)?

Response: This was to provide us with the opportunity to properly classify the section of participants with changes in their menstrual pattern and to look for potential risk factors.

2. The authors should mentioned these result information in simple tabular form.

Response: The detailed information regarding the “change” and the “no change” group has been integrated in the Table 1 and provides all the data on their variables. In our opinion, a new table will just be duplication of the Table 1.

3. The authors should mentioned ,title for table-1,2,3 and 4.

Response: We have included all the relevant paragraph headings for all tables and the figure. We have heighted all changes to the manuscript in the text by highlighting. And to the best of our knowledge, we have conformed strictly to the guidelines for submission to your highly esteemed journal. Having revised most of the major suggestions, we look forward to hearing a response about our submission. We are once again entirely grateful for the comments and would be glad to respond to any further questions and comments that you may have.

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Yours sincerely,

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