Author’s response to reviews

Title: The psychometric properties of the Barkin index of maternal functioning (BIMF) for the Iranian population

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor of BMC Women's Health,

Please find the revised manuscript entitled, “The psychometric properties of the Barkin index of maternal functioning (BIMF) for the Iranian population”. We have carefully considered the comments and have addressed them below.

Yours sincerely,

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Reviewer reports: Shumayla saifi, Ph.D. (Reviewer 1):

The manuscript is written well, however need essential revision for language at some points.

The manuscript has been reviewed and edited by someone who is a native English speaker (second author).
Also, it is important to clarify that on what basis the categorization of income as insufficient, sufficient etc is done. Was it purely participant perception?

The question about income has been designed as qualitative and the participants’ response was based on their perception of sufficiency of income for household expenses.

Validating BIMF scale for Iranian women will be beneficial for other research scholars as well. Utilization of a large sample size for such studies is always act as a strengthen point for the study.

All the best.

We appreciate this observation regarding our study. Thank you.

Marta B Rondon, M.D, (Reviewer 2):

The assessment of maternal competency and functioning seems to be important for the wellbeing of the neonate and infant. Evidently using a valid and reliable scale is helpful. So the need to adapt, translate and validate the BIMF seems clear. The translation process was carried out according to recommended procedures.

Inclusion criteria: does not include being free from intimate partner violence, a proven stressful factor. I think this would interfere with the responses.

Thank you for this insight. We have added language related to intimate partner violence and its potential role.

Discussion

I don't understand why the Iranian version is compared with the Turkish translation over and over.

The culture of our country is similar to Turkey’s. Furthermore, this tool has been validated only in Turkey and in the U.S. Therefore, these two other studies provided a basis of comparison. We also compared our analysis to the Barkin et al. (U.S.) psychometric study.

Thank you so much