Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors influencing women’s sex work in a Lebanese sample Results of a case-control study

Authors:

Maria Slim (slimmmaria@gmail.com)
Chadia Haddad (chadia_9@hotmail.com)
Elsa Sfeir (elsa_sfeir@hotmail.com)
Clara Rahme (klara_rahmeh@hotmail.com)
Souheil Hallit (souheilhallit@hotmail.com)
Sahar Obeid (saharobeid23@hotmail.com)

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Reviewer 2: The revisions done to this manuscript improved the quality of the content of this study. However, there are key elements that still need to be revised and that were not addressed in this version. The paper is not yet suitable for publication.

The authors are discussing a highly complex theme and are trying to explain pathways into the sex trade. However, given the study design of this study, you cannot prove causal effects, only if you have followed the participants since they were children you could say certain elements lead them to sex work. Authors can find associations but they cannot affirm that there is a causal relationship between the independent variables and sex work. Additionally, the quality of the language written it is not suitable for publication. A native speaker or an editor should revise this paper. Only the abstract has critical grammar mistakes that make it very hard to follow.

The paper was reviewed by a professional editor.

Abstract.

Background. It seems that there is a sentence missing before, "it is, therefore…." As it is now it is not clear why it is interesting to explore the factors…. If you start a sentence with therefore it is needed to state something before. Corrected.

"Leading to women sex work" Is not properly written; "leading women to sex work" is the proper way of saying this. Corrected.

Again, the methods that you are using do not allow the authors to state this. It is recommended to say factors associated, factors that may explain, that may be related, etc. Please revise all the paper accordingly. Corrected.

Enhance means increment, it is believed that you are not explaining why sex work has increased in Lebanon or is this the goal of the paper? Changed to associated with…

Methods in the abstract are not properly written. Controls were chosen from the same "living area" as the sex worker what? As the sex workers who are in the control group? If the cases SW are in
prison how is this possible? Corrected to “Controls were chosen from the same prison population as the sex workers.”