Author’s response to reviews

Title: Stillbirths: How should its rate be reported, its disability-adjusted-life-years (DALY), and stillbirths adjusted life expectancy

Authors:

Chander Kant (kant@kresearch.org)

Version: 2 Date: 21 Jun 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

June 21, 2019

Eleanor Harding, Assistant Editor

BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making

Re: MIDM-D-19-00149; Stillbirths: How should its rate be reported, its disability-adjusted-life-years (DALY), and stillbirths adjusted life expectancy; author = Chander Kant

Dear Ms. Harding,

In my opinion, your email today is an attempt at cover-up for the shocking statements you made on June 5, 2019.

1. You now implicitly agree I had provided data sources used (some, in excruciating details) in the legends of Tables 1 and 3, as well as all additional files. You only state that “[S]ee above” in the legends of Tables 2 and 4 is not enough, and you want me to repeat the data sources from Table 1’s legend in Table 2’s, and Table 3’s legend in Table 4’s.

Nevertheless, you neither apologize for sweepingly requiring on June 5, 2019 “[P]lease provide a source in the table legends for the data used in table 1,2 and 3 as well as all additional files,” nor
admit that by this sweeping June 5, 2019 statement you only meant “[P]lease repeat the data sources from Table 1’s legend in Table 2, and Table 3’s legend in Table 4.”

In my opinion, no editor, whether having COPE’s imprimatur or not, should take three and one-half months to tell the author “[P]lease repeat the data sources from Table 1’s legend in Table 2, and Table 3’s legend in Table 4.”

Nevertheless, I have done that too in the sixth version of my paper that I have uploaded.

2. I had stated earlier “[T]he datasets analyzed during the current study are available in the” and then given the websites where they are available.

To get over your whimsical and unreasonable June 5, 2019 request, I changed the above statement to “The datasets analyzed during the current study are available (and no (administrative) permission is required to use/reuse them) in the” (fifth) version of the paper that I uploaded that day.

You implicitly accept on June 21, 2019 that no (administrative) permission is required to use/reuse the data at


b. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.dyn.le00.in

c. childmortality.org

d. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/international-programs/about/idb.html
but still “want to double check [I] have permissions to use the data or [am] certain that no permissions are required” to use the data at the following web-site

e. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(15)00275-2/fulltext#seccestitle190

The website listed at e. above, like those at a. to d., is also in public domain (and you can check that fact yourself). A material under a CC-BY-NC-ND license “do[es] not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where [the user’s] use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation (such as fair use and fair dealing).” See, https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

Since as an editor you must know the above public domain exception of a material under a CC-BY-NC-ND license, the conclusion is inescapable that your intense desire “to double check [I] have permissions to use the data or [am] certain that no permissions are required” for a public domain data is simply to find an excuse for your delays and earlier shocking statements.

3. I have changed the author’s contribution statement from

“CK is the sole contributor to this paper; he alone is responsible for the views expressed in this article”

to (what you want now)

"CK is the sole author of this article, he alone is responsible for the content and the views expressed in this article.”

Again, no editor, whether having COPE’s imprimatur or not, should take three and one-half months to ask the author to make this small change.
I suspected it earlier; now I am convinced: The editor has deliberately caused delays in the publication of my paper.

As before, do ensure whatever way my paper’s pdf lists as my institutions, the published paper lists “Kant Research” as my Secondary Institution.

Regards,

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