Author's response to reviews
Title: Factors affecting the cultural competence of visiting nurses for rural multicultural family support in South Korea

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Author's response to reviews:
Response to Editor

Thank you for your comments. We put our responses as belows.

1. Thank you for your response regarding ethical approval. However, we would like to clarify why, if ethical approval was not available from your institute, you did not seek ethical approval from either a regional or national IRB.
If you did not need formal ethics approval please confirm that this complies with national guidelines and provide a reference which supports this. Alternatively, supply a statement that says that a local ethics committee ruled that no formal ethics approval was required in this particular case.

[Ethics approval and consent to participate section, line 20, page 18]

→ In South Korea, during our data collection period (which was 2011-2012), the IRB was only required for the study using human derived materials, stem cell, human gene transfer research, embryonic stem cell until 2013. There was no official institute to acquire ethical review for the human subject research (such as survey using questionnaire in non-invasive way) until 2013. Therefore, we did not have any national and local level of IRB for our specific study.
As a statement that a local ethics committee was not required for the human subject research during our data collection period, we supplemented the official letter, which confirm the IRB was not required for the human subject research for the specific study, from the director of CHA University Institutional Review Board. We added the original version of Bioethics and Safety Act in South Korea that supported our address above, too.


Finally, under the “ethics approval and consent to participate” section in the manuscript, we added the comments as below. Please verify if this is okay or not.

[Ethics approval and consent to participate section, line 20, page 18]
“This study complies with national guidelines (National Law information Center of South Korea). The formal ethics approval for the human subject research project was not mandatory and required until the year of 2013, according to Bioethics and Safety Act in South Korea [Enforcement Date 02, Feb, 2013]. The local ethics committee ruled that no formal ethics approval for the study using the survey questionnaires for human subject research project was required.”

2. Please revise your availability of data and materials statement.

The Availability of data and materials section refers to the raw data used in your study and presenting tables and figures is not sufficient to state that all data is contained within the manuscript and additional files. Please only use this statement if you have indeed provided all raw data on which your study is based. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):
→ Thank you for the comments, we put the sentence, “The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.”

3. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.
→ According to your guide, we will correct the uploading files.