Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nursing and midwifery research activity in Arab countries from 1950 to 2017

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Nursing and midwifery research activity in Arab countries from 1950 to 2017
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BMC Health Services Research

Technical Comments:

Editor Comments:
In addition to the reviewers' comments below, please address the following Editorial concerns

1. Clean version
   At this stage, please upload a clean version of your manuscript, without tracked changes or otherwise highlighted text, as this may interfere with the production process.

   Response: Clean version has been submitted

2. List of abbreviations
   We have noticed that some of your abbreviations and/or acronyms are missing from your list of abbreviations (e.g. RCT, EMRO, SJR, WHO, Q,m USA, SMJ). Please carefully check your manuscript and make sure that all abbreviations and acronyms are included in your list of abbreviations.
Response: list of abbreviations was expanded

3. Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Please include the IRB case reference number for this study (this is also required if the need for approval was officially waived), alternatively please provide a reference to the local legislation that makes it clear such approval is not required.
- Please remove the "not applicable" statement from the sub-section header, and instead include a statement in the section indicating that consent to participate is not applicable.

Response: please see related section at the end of the manuscript

4. Authors' contributions
- Please remove the . from the initials, and instead refer to the authors as follows: WS, SA, SZ, AS, HH.
- Please include a statement to clarify that all authors have read and approve of the final version of this manuscript.

Response: Done

5. figure 1/3
Please clarify whether this image requires copy rights to be published, and if so, please indicate whether you possess the required rights to use this image.

Response: No copyright is needed. It was created in specific for the manuscript.

Reviewer reports:
Peter Kokol (Reviewer 1): Authors made almost all the necessary amendments to the manuscript. Anyhow I would advise the authors to extend the thematic analysis of the keywords network, by reducing the occurrence frequency of keywords, thus including more keywords into the analysis. Once again I would suggest to remove the country names from the network, except if they contribute to the analysis. For example (blue cluster): … Saudi Arabia nursing research is mostly related to stress and nursing education.

Response: omitting country name created no thematic clusters. Furthermore the country names are essential part of the analysis. Therefore, the map was kept as is.

Aamir Raoof Memon (Reviewer 3):

Line 57: "lagging in quantity and quality" should be followed by "compared to other countries" or it may be "compared to the developed countries" or "compared to the Western countries".

Response: please see revise line 57

The methodology used for literature search in this study should be provided as a supplemental file.
Response: The methodology is already in a supplementary file

Line 260: "In most Arab countries, academic promotion is based on the number and quality of publications". Is it true for the funding also? Authors did not discuss anything about research funding (26% from non-Arab countries according to this paper) and subsidy that authors get, from their institutions, for publishing their work. Funding is also an important reason increasing publications, authors should discussion this.
Line 275-285 Authors have a space for discussing "lack of funding", which might be one of the factors for a lower number of RCTs.

Response: Done. See revised lines 265 - 272

Line 302: "In bibliometric analysis" should be changed to "In bibliometric analyses,"

Response: Please see revised line 311
Since self-citations were not excluded, the readers of the manuscript should be cautioned about this limitation of the findings in the "limitations" section of the manuscript.

Response: Please see lines 315 - 317

Where a mandatory Declarations section is not relevant to your study design or article type, please write "Not applicable" in these sections.
Response: DONE