Author's response to reviews

Title: Sexual and reproductive health beliefs and practices of female immigrants in Spain. A qualitative study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
August 4, 2015.

To the Editor in chief of Reproductive Health

Dear Sir,

Again we want to express our sincere appreciation for the effort that the reviewers are making to improve our manuscript (MS: 7406604115561560).

After careful review each of the comments, we have made the appropriate change. In the following pages we describe in detail the way in which we have answered to the suggestions of the Reviewer 2. We hope that the new document meet your expectations and be reconsidered for publication.

We have tried to answer all the recommendations. In the new version of the document the key changes are highlighted with track changes. As you can see, we have included new information and references to clarify the doubts of Reviewer 2.

Thank for the opportunity.

Yours sincerely.

On behalf of all authors,
Reviewer #2:

Dear reviewer,

We would like to express our gratitude for the interest showed in our manuscript and for your recommendations. We are confident that the proposed changes will improve the article. We have tried to give the best answer all the suggestions. We hope that the new document meet your expectations and be reconsidered for publication.

Throughout this letter, we describe in detail the way in which we have answered to the suggestions, in the hope that the changes carried out into the paper leads to the editorial team to recommend its publication.

Thank for the opportunity.

Yours sincerely.

The authors.
MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

METHODS

1) Page 5 – What is the definition of a “geopolitical nationality group” and from what literature is this term derived? The authors focus on five such groups – “sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia” – without explanation or rationale. Are these terms of convenience or are they the categories typically employed in Spanish government statistical or census data? Throughout the entire text the words “region,” “country,” “ethnicity,” and “culture” are often employed in indeterminate (or even interchangeable) terms that drain them of significance. Moreover, why these five groups and not immigrants from everywhere? If the authors’ exclusive focus is on immigrants from the developing world, then they should make that clear.

- Response:

Dear reviewer, in Spain is common to use this classification of "geopolitical group by nationality of origin." It is the classification used by both National Statistics Institute (INE), as different ministries, mainly the Ministry of Employment and Social Security and the Ministry of Interior and Justice. These institutions are those who publish official data on foreigners in Spain. This classification is most often used by researchers and academics in Spain and is widely accepted.

During the design of the sample of study, the research team decided it was the best classification to perform the sampling of participants.

As to the second comment, we decided to include in the study women immigrants from countries with low or medium human development index, who emigrate for economic reasons and / or politicians who have specific difficulties arising from the situation.

2) In terms of procedure (Page 5), the authors provide no specifics on the interview script, only that it was “based on the previous literature review.” Consequently, their analysis cannot be clearly evaluated nor can their study be reproduced or built upon by future researchers. This essential information (even if it is only the initial script) could easily be provided to the reader in a table or appendix.
• Response:
  We thank the reviewer for this comment. As suggested, we have included a table with the script interview.

DISCUSSION

1) Page 14 - The claim that “This paper explores three themes that emerged from the study data: 1) the migratory process, 2) beliefs and behaviors regarding sexuality, and 3) beliefs and customs during the reproductive process of female immigrants living in Andalusia.” directly contradicts their statement from Page 6 “Interviews were structured around four sections: first, the story of the migration process. Secondly, sexuality. Thirdly, the reproduction…” These statements are completely incompatible.

• Response:
  We agree with the reviewer. We modified the first subparagraph of discussion to do so consistently.

CONCLUSION

1) Page 16 – This section is underdeveloped. Also, after focusing exclusively on the importance of studying immigrant females and SRH, the authors conclude by arguing for more research on the practices, beliefs and expectations of immigrant males. Given the weakness of their study sample, a more logical conclusion would call for additional work with a much larger, more representative sample of the Andalusian immigrant female population to build upon this very preliminary analysis. In the sample design five geopolitical groups of origin of respondent (including Asia) were included. But access to the Asian population in Andalusia is complicated and as we discussed in the limitations it was not possible to interview any Asian woman.

• Response:
  Thank you very much again for your comment. As suggested by the reviewer, we have included its contribution to future research.
MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

ABSTRACT
Numerous mechanical and grammatical errors.

- Response:
  We have reviewed and corrected the errors.

BACKGROUND
1) Page 3 – “… essential requirement for compliance with the Millennium Development Goals, recognized by major international organizations.” – this very specific claim requires attribution.

- Response:
  We have included references confirming that claim.

2) Page 3 – “At the same time, in today’s societies having large immigrant populations, the need for specialized health services for immigrants in host countries has been introduced in corresponding healthcare legislation” – this very specific claim requires attribution.

- Response:
  We have included references confirming that claim.

3) Page 5 – “Ultimately, despite some established measures, healthcare services in Spain are organized and created for a culturally, linguistically and socially uniform population. Cultural diversity, and the labor and social conditions of these users are not anticipated by the system. These situations produce inequality in access and use of healthcare services.” – is this the authors’ assertion or is this supposed to be attributed to Lobato and Oliver?

- Response:

  This statement is attributed to the authors. You can consult the following publication. The reference is included in the text and in the section references


RESULTS

1) Page 10 – Eastern Europe is not a country.

Response:

We are sorry, it was a translation error. We correct the error.

Sincerely,

The authors