Author's response to reviews

Title: Male Reproductive Health Challenges: Appraisal of Wives' Coping Strategies

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Author’s response to reviews:


We hereby present the point-by-point response to Editor and Reviewers comments

1. General

➢ We have improved on the language editing.

➢ We paid attention to all presentation to ensure concise and understanding by prospective readers.

2. Plain language summary

- Some information regarding analysis is not appropriate for a lay audience

- Greater focus should be placed on why this is a problem worth researching and the findings

Actions:
Uncommon terms have been removed. What we have now seem simple enough to carry everyone along… ‘using only simple organisation of summaries and systematic typologies of participants’ responses’

A whole paragraph is now inserted to provide an overview of the problem and why it worth researching.

3. Abstract

Background – this should describe what the problem you are hoping to address is
- male reproductive challenges
- What are these challenges and how are they significant? Why do they matter?
- wives coping strategies: why does their coping strategy matter? What do we know about coping in the face of male reproductive challenges are other similar health problems?

Actions:

- We have added few lines to provide an overview or summary of the problems, importance of studying them and the significance of wife coping with such problem of the husband.
- We are also mindful of words constraint.

4. Methods – remove ethics statement, this is not necessary in the abstract

Actions:

- Removed as advised

5. Introduction

- This section is too long, should be further condensed
- You don’t establish that marital conflict is a significant problem in Nigeria, this point should be more persuasive

Actions:

- The introduction has been partially condensed.
- We convincingly indicate marital conflict as issues of concern in Nigeria. (P.2&8)
While empirical statistics were provided for divorce, we indicated that specific rates of marital conflicts are difficult to establish (P2 & 8).

6. Methods
- The first two sentences are redundant, remove the second
- Provide the framework used for analysis as a table/figure or appendix
- How data was organized into the framework is the key distinguishing factor of this analysis method and should be described

Actions:
- The sentence has been removed.
- How the framework was organised has been inserted in detail P.9 (under the Research Design) and more detailed in P.13 (under Data Analysis).

7. Results
- It may be helpful to frame your findings by first listing the common reproductive challenges discussed by these women. One would expect the coping strategies to be different for various conditions so it would be important to put this in context.
- ‘Seeking intervention from family doctors’ – this first two sentences seem contradictory: seeking care from family doctor is important, yet few reported this.
- Be careful of inconsistent formatting of quotations
- ‘seeking care’ and ‘resignation to fate’ are opposing coping strategies, how did the women differ depending on their response? Age? Years of marriage? Type of reproductive challenges? No pattern?...

Actions:
- A section on male reproductive health problems identified in the field has now been included. The section indicated the various challenges mentioned and few excerpts from the participants (P.12)
- The patterns are indicated in p and made clearer in the presentation of results under the coping strategies mentioned, P20, Para. 1. It can also be clearly seen in Paragraph 4 of the
Discussion Section (P.23). We could only establish two distinct patterns: by age and by their husband sexual health problems.

- Other expected patterns which we could not covered have been reported as part of study limitations

8. Discussion

- Page 19, Line 30-34 – this is an interesting finding, but it is not mentioned in the results, ensure all discussion items relate to findings presented in the previous section

Actions:

- This has been adjusted and we specifically referred to on P.18 among those who practice abstinence and those who embraced religiosity in order not to be distracted/worried about sex.

- It was also referred to in P. 21 under the reason why the women endure their marriage.

9. Limitations

- Many did not show up for participation, this may indicate that this group is systematically different in same way. Are four focus groups sufficient to answer this research question? Why/why not? How can you be sure?

Actions:

- The limitation has been adjusted to provide answers to the above questions.

- We re-affirmed the appropriateness of FGD method used and indicated that the fewer (four) FGDs for the work provided the widest range of input as desired despite the timing frame and limited funding of the project (P.7,9 & 32).

- We also added that the study only established responses by husband reproductive health problems and ages, other patterns like responses types or year of marriage were not covered.