Author’s response to reviews

Title: Social capital and health during pregnancy; an in-depth exploration from rural Sri Lanka

Authors:

Thilini Agampodi (thilinichanchala@yahoo.com)
Thilde Rheinländer (thtr@sund.ku.dk)
Suneth Agampodi (sunethagampodi@yahoo.com)
Nicholas Glozier (nick.glozier@sydney.edu.au)
Sisira Siribaddana (sisira.siribaddana@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 16 Mar 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #2: Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript for consideration.

Overall, I thought that you did a nice job addressing the reviewer comments and making substantial improvements to the paper. In particular, I think that the additions you made to the literature review and discussion of social capital in the front half of the paper clarified social capital and your study a great deal. Well done! I also really like that you used multiple sources of data collection (diaries and interviews) and I think that this lends a lot to your study.

Comments & Suggestions:

1. You are refer to "a framework approach" but it’s not clear to me what framework you are using. Can you clarify this for the reader? It seems that you developed a framework and used explanatory qualitative analysis (versus exploratory). Throughout the paper you mention both an exploratory approach and that you used a guiding framework to code the data (explanatory because it is pre-determined). Please ensure that the approach is clear and consistent throughout the paper.

Thank you for this point. We would still state this study as exploratory because it is meant to identify the social capital dimensions, constructs and their descriptors in pregnant women.
We made it clear why we used framework approach initially and thematic approach for the second analysis. LN 341-344

We also included the column of the table, which contains the framework we used. LN 348

Then at the beginning of the results section we mentioned separately the explanatory and exploratory aspects of the study. LN 433-438

2. I think you might consider calling the resulting constructs "themes" instead. This is more consistent with qualitative research.

We would like to keep the social capital constructs as it is in the first part of analysis because we conducted a framework approach and in the true framework these are dimensions and constructs.

But in the second component of exploring how social capital could affect health during pregnancy we mentioned it as themes as we conducted thematic analysis. LN506

3. Line 203 - you imply that this study is interested in measuring social capital. I disagree with this because it is a qualitative study that aims to explore social capital - it is NOT a measurement paper. Since this is part of a larger study that did create and validate a measure of social capital for this study I wonder if this is why this is in here?

Agree. Corrected.

4. Line 113 - Physiologically, women's work capacity actually increases during pregnancy (increased blood volume, VO2max, etc.). I think that you need some references in this section and rewording. While it is true that some women have physical illness, nausea, or complications, there are likely other reasons that women decrease physical activity during pregnancy and this also changes during different trimesters.

Corrected. LN 113

Thanks again for submitting your interesting paper for consideration.