Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors Associated with Dietary Supplement Use in Saudi Pregnant Women

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #1:

1. Page 4, row 94: ..studies observed the lack of knowledge, especially in girls regarding micronutrients. Please rephrase to .. studies observed the lack of knowledge in especially micronutrients such as vitamin D in girls..

Both references mentioned in the manuscript are about vitamin D.

This sentence has now been rephrased accordingly.

2. Page 6, row 133 (and Table 1). ..The 133 majority of the participants had a normal BMI (<25kg/m²)(N=52; 38.2%), I would suggest to rephrase this sentence to .. a majority of the participants were overweight or obese (N=xx, 57.0%).

Thank you for this comment. It has now been changed.

3. Also, I am struggling with table 3 (Use of Dietary Supplements during Pregnancy based on Health status in Babies). When is the health status of the babies checked? At what age? One year after birth, two years after? Who checked the health status? is it from doctors journals? You
should also clarify when the enrolled study participants completed the questionnaire. You mention in the Methods section that "200 Saudi pregnant women in their second or third trimester were recruited, out of whom 137 consented and completed the questionnaire." Did they complete the questionnaire at enrollement (before the birth of the baby or after)? How did you get information about health status in the off-spring of the mother? This is not described.

The consented participants completed the questionnaire before their delivery. We did not checked the health status of babies, rather we asked questions to mothers in the questionnaire presented in table 3 to know if the babies from their previous delivery have any health problem (Rickets, Spina Bifida, Allergies, diabetes, Diabetes Mellitus, weak or late growth and allergies) after the use of dietary supplements. The information provided regarding neonatal health status has been added as a limitation of the study.

Reviewer #2:

1. Row 143 'No significant differences were found in infant (Table 3)'. I suggest: No significant difference in dietary supplement use was observed by the health status of the baby.'

   This sentence has been changed accordingly.

2. Row 185: A typo. The percentage 95.9% should be outside of the brackets.

   It has been corrected.
Reviewer 3: Marianne Vidler

1. Comment 1: What are you trying to get at here?

This sentence has been rephrased.

2. Comment 2: What could explain the difference you have found?

Thank you for this comment. It has been changed accordingly.

3. Comment 3: And because qualitative findings by nature are not generalizable, although we aim for transferability

It has been rephrased accordingly.

4. Comment 4: rephrase

It has been rephrased.

5. Comment 5: Provide the numbers for BMI ranges as this is referred to in the text

Thank you for this comment. It has been updated.