Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors related to healthy sexual and contraceptive behaviors in undergraduate students at University of Seville: A cross-sectional study.

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Reviewer reports:

We appreciate reviewer’s comments to improve this manuscript to be published. We would like to publish this research, so we would be able to make more changes if needed.

Reviewer #1: Factors related to healthy sexual and contraceptive behaviors in undergraduate students at University of Seville: A cross-sectional study

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A very interesting research.

Page 8. L-7. Include the final sample size and how many did not want to participate. To make it clear. In the abstract is announced 566 but in this part, is announced 3349 and not the 566, or the reasons why it is much less than planned. It is confusing. Please detail more. Thank you for the observation. In this part, we mention the total population of students in University of Seville. This population was used to calculate sample for our research according parameters that we mention (confident of interval, distribution of answers, and estimated error of 5%). In results section, we include the final sample of 566 students who were randomized.

Page 8. Can you detail a bit more the process of selection of individuals? was randomly or purposively selection? If it is random, then why there is not balance in the participation of women and men?. As we can read in page 8, line 7, students were randomized by groups (classes). It was not possible to do it by individuals because they were selected by degrees, level of studies and subjects using a computer table. The proportion of women is slightly higher because this is the reality of our university. More women study at university than men. Nevertheless, our participants were 47.3% (men) and 52.6% (women).

Page 8. L39-until Pag 9, L22. While knowledge in Sexual and reproductive health is important, is no less important the practice and attitudes. Here you mention that 2nd part is on Practice but nothing was worked on attitudes. Please explain why. We appreciate your comment. We agree
that we did not mention any specific about attitudes because, as we say in limitations, we tried to avoid desirability bias (page 17, line 47). We explored attitudes through behaviors and knowledge. For example, we asked about health controls for women using contraceptives, to explore a salutogenesis approach. For example, when we asked about prevention attitude in women who use contraceptives (To use hormonal pills, you have to appoint a general practitioner at primary health centre; and All women active sexually has to perform a Papanicolaou annually), we were exploring attitudes.

Page 8. L27-31. Can you mention what was the range of factor communalities of the knowledge part?. Sorry, we do not understand what reviewer means. Page 8, line 27-31 is about data collection, that the questionnaire was piloted. Please, could you clarify more about your request?.

In general. There is no consistency in the use of terms for KAP survey and its informed results. Please verify this. You switch terms permanently and it is unclear. Please revise.

This request was taken into account, and all manuscript was revised again.

Throughout the results section it is only presented two elements of KAP: knowledge and sexual practices. Attitudes are not presented and not studied explicitly. Is this so? Why? As we mentioned before, we tried to avoid social desirability asking about attitudes directly. This aspect was explored with behaviors and knowledge when we asked about sentences. Some authors opt for this strategy to avoid social acquiescence.

Page 14. L31. It is presented that "women are shown to have more information and adopted healthier behaviors related to sexual relations and use of contraceptives". Was gender approach included in the survey to deepen the "why" from attitudes section?. Attitudes can be different from men and women. And this difference could have been interesting to have, particularly when you present about use of contraception, risky behaviors. Effectively this point was explored with the questionnaire. As we can observe in table 3 that is presented by gender. We stated important differences between men and women, overall in health controls, showing here a healthier attitude supported by the knowledge and behavior.

The discussion section keeps presenting the results. Please keep each part well separated.

We recognized that we included some data about research in discussion section but this was mentioned to compare with results obtained in other similar studies.

Page 17. L40. Please change ad for and. This was changed.

Reviewer #2: This is a very interesting article on knowledge about contraception among university students. It is often assumed that university students are knowledgeable about contraception thus neglecting continuing sex education among university students. I have two main suggestions:
1. Your manuscript needs thorough editing. In some instances, the sentences read as if they had been translated using software, for example, in your "plain summary".

All manuscript has been reviewed by a native English speaker. Plain summary has been modified completely.

2. Your conclusion in the abstract is reading like the results. Please bring out your main conclusion(s) from the findings. A new conclusion has been written taking into account his suggestion.