Author’s response to reviews

Title: Perspectives of Paddy Workers Regarding the Use of Sunscreen: A Theory-based Qualitative Research

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear in Archives of Public Health Journal

Thank you for your e-mail forwarding the reviewers’ comments to us. We found their comments very helpful and thus we have made the following point-by-point changes to the manuscript:

Reviewer 1:
Introduction

The rational of the study should be more highlighted in the introduction section.

This was rephrased as follow:

Thus implementation of appropriate interventions to encourage people including farmers to use sunscreen is of prime importance. However, as recommended these interventions should be theory driven in order to be effective and appealing to the target audience. One such theory is Health Action Process Approach (HAPA). HAPA

Since little information was available on the use of sunscreen by Iranian paddy workers, and since no study was previously conducted on the experiences of paddy workers about sunscreen use, this qualitative study aimed to explore the topic. It was hoped that the findings from this study could help to provide appropriate intervention for sunscreen use by farmers.
Methods

Did the authors decide to conduct 27 interviews or was it the result of the recruitment? This should be clarified in the methods section. In addition, on one hand, the authors speak about a one-month period to realize the interviews and, on the other hand, they mentioned that “the sample were classified according to their age, work experience, and education”. What does it mean? How did the authors proceed?

This was clarified as recommended:

It the result of the recruitment. We reached saturation after one month from beginning of study, sampling methods in current study was purposive sampling with the consideration of maximum variation in terms of age, work experiences and education

The study population should be detailed (+inclusion and exclusion criteria).

This was further explained as recommended:

The sample for the study included paddy workers and were recruited from the northern part of the Iran (Gilan Province). Inclusion criteria was: age equal or above 30 years old, fluent in speaking Persian and willing to participate in the study., The farmers who worked less than two hours a day on the farms and had less than five years experiences were excluded.

Page 6: What do the authors mean by “trained researchers”?

This was rephrased as follow

The first investigator (HP) performed interviews.

Results:

Overall, the presentation of the results is very descriptive; there should be more in depth analyses.

The presentation of tables is not optimal at all. Table 2 is not clear enough.

Why is there no excerpt from interviews in “the intention of using the sunscreen “section?

This section was corrected.
For “SPF” (Page 9): Abbreviations should be typically defined the first time the term is used within the main text and then used throughout the remainder of the manuscript.

This was rephrased as suggested:

SPF: Sun Protection Factor

Discussion/Conclusion

Please discuss about the strengths and limitations of the study.

This study had some strengths and limitations. Two major strengths were the fact that we used a theoretical framework (HAPA) for the study; and the fact that to the best of our knowledge, this is the first qualitative study that explores Iranian farmers’ views on using sunscreen. However, there were several limitations for the study. First, since the study was carried out in agricultural season, some factors such as lack of time might be influenced data collection process, although we tried to adjust the interview time accordance with participant’s situations. Second, the main limitation of the current study is sampling of the north farmers of Iran, so the findings are no generalizable to all farmers in Iran

Review#2:

The manuscript must be revised for English language.

It was revised

How were the 27 farmers selected?

The sample for the study included paddy workers and were recruited from the northern part of the Iran (Gilan Province). Inclusion criteria was: age equal or above 30 years old, fluent in speaking Persian and willing to participate in the study., The farmers who worked less than two hours a day on the farms and had less than five years experiences were excluded.

Please give much more information regarding the open-ended questions and the investigative questions.

During the interviews explorative questions about the predetermined codes were asked. Sample items included ‘What do you know about sun burning?’ What did you do for preventing yourself from sun burning?’ please explain your experiences about sun burning and sunscreen use?’ why are you did not using sunscreen? ‘Please explain about benefits of sunscreen use’ and ‘please tell me are you going to use sunscreen when you are working on land’.
The discussion is far too long and must be reduced by 50%.

The discussion was reduced.

However, the limitations of this study must be exhaustively developed.

The authors must follow the SRQR guidelines for the writing of their manuscript.

This study had some strengths and limitations. Two major strengths were the fact that we used a theoretical framework (HAPA) for the study; and the fact that to the best of our knowledge, this is the first qualitative study that explores Iranian farmers’ views on using sunscreen. However, there were several limitations for the study. First, since the study was carried out in agricultural season, some factors such as lack of time might be influenced data collection process, although we tried to adjust the interview time accordance with participant’s situations. Second, Given that this study was conducted among Iranians north farmers, the findings of this study might not be generalized to all Iranian’s farmers. These farmers might differ from others in terms of socioeconomic status, age, Skin sensitivity.

I hope you find the corrections satisfactory.

I wish you all the best.

Kind regards

Leili Salehi