Author’s response to reviews

Title: Decomposing socioeconomic inequality in dental caries in Iran: cross-sectional results from the PERSIAN cohort study

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Editor-in-Chief,
Archives of Public Health
Dear Enrique Bernal-Delgado
Re: Re-submission of the manuscript, ID: AOPH-D-20-00165R2
Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript entitled “Socioeconomic inequality in self-medication in Iran: Cross-sectional analyses at the national and subnational levels” to Archives of Public Health. We are thankful to you and the reviewers for the valuable suggestions and comments on our paper. We find the review reports immensely useful to improve the quality of the article. We have revised the manuscript following the suggestions and feedback from the reviewers. Please find our responses attached to this letter.
We hope that you will find the revised version suitable for publication in your journal. If necessary, we would be happy to undertake further revision of our paper.

Sincerely,
Satar Rezaei, PhD
on behalf of the authors

Reviewer reports:
Reviewer #1: I am generally very satisfied with the revision made by the authors. However, there are some small details which they may take into account:
Response: Thank you.

*What is the reasoning for analysis at province level data? Identify worse off provinces, maybe provinces with lower supply facilities per higher prices, lack of personnel, etc.*

Response: We used data extracted from Persian cohort data in some provinces of Iran (14 provinces); but we did not analysis socioeconomic-related inequality to identify the main determinants at the national level and we also examine the inequality in DMF index at the national and provinces levels. However, the analysis at the subnational level provides useful information to health policy makers to track the effect of health reform on dental status and a better resource allocation of health system.

*Perhaps the authors should discuss also in limitations that younger adults are excluded from the survey. It would be interesting to know how the problem described in the paper evolves with age.*

Response: Thank you for this good comment. Now we added this issue as a study limitation.

*P value in footnote Table 4* I Guess authors mean "p value less than 0.01". Usually, 2 stars are given to very low p values. Also, why is the value in bold? Tables should be self informative.

Response: Revised as per this comment.

Reviewer #2: Thank you for these revisions.
Response: Thank you.