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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Predictors of Sexual and Reproductive Self-care Among Iranian Adolescent Females

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About this report

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1 Original submission

1 comment · 29 Aug 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 29 Aug 2023

This manuscript addresses the predictors of sexual and reproductive self-care status in Iranian female adolescents. So, the topic is important; however, there are some comments requesting further clarification, as indicated in the attachment.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Editor
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript *'Predictors of sexual and reproductive self-care among Iranian adolescent girls'*. We have now addressed reviewer's comments, as described below. The changes that we have made to the manuscript are presented in yellow highlights. We hope that the paper is now acceptable for publication in the *Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Sciences*. We look forward to your reply. Thank you again for considering our manuscript.
Sincerely,

Corresponding Authors

Reviewer's comment: Title: Add the year of the study
Author's response: As requested, the title has been revised to: "Predictors of sexual and reproductive self-care among Iranian adolescent girls in 2022"

Reviewer's comment: This manuscript needs to edit by an English expert, because there are many English errors in the grammar and structure of sentences.
Author's response: The revised version has been edited by native English expert who is a co-author of the manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Abstract- methods: complete as "random multi stage sampling"; Delete the highlighted sentence. How many students? Put the abbreviation for name of scale inside the parentheses; Mention the used statistics in this study.
Author's response: As requested, this section has been revised:

*"**Methods:** A cross-sectional study using random multi-stage sampling was conducted with adolescent girls aged 14 to19 years in secondary schools of Karaj, Iran in 2022. A total of 555 female students voluntarily completed the survey. The survey included the Female Adolescents' Sexual and Reproductive Self-Care Questionnaire (FASRSCQ). Univariable and multivariable linear regression at a significance level of $p<0.05$ was applied."*

Reviewer's comment: Abstract – results: Delete 555 female students participated in the survey should be put in the method section; each mean needs a standard deviation; Add p value for numerical findings.
Author's response: As requested, this section has been revised:

*"**Results:** The mean score on the FASRSCQ was 65.42 out of 100 (SD=10.27). The highest mean score was acquired on the Perception of Female Adolescents of Premarital Sexual Relationships subscale (85.98 [SD=14.28]) and the lowest mean score was acquired on the Reproductive and Sexual Health Knowledge subscale (36.97 [SD=23.58]). The total score on the FASRSCQ had the strongest association with the Adolescents and Family Interaction subscale ($r=0.71$, $p<0.001$) and the weakest association with the Reproductive and Sexual Health Knowledge subscale ($r=0.38$, $p<0.001$). Multivariable linear regression analysis showed that having very strong religious beliefs ($\beta=0.23$, $p<0.001$), receiving information regarding puberty and menstrual health from peers ($\beta=-0.20$, $p<0.001$) and cold parent-child relationship ($\beta=-0.19$,*

p<0.001) were independent significant predictors of good sexual and reproductive self-care among adolescent girls."

Reviewer's comment: Match key words with MeSH.
Author's response: As requested, the keywords have been revised based on MeS.

*"**Keywords:** female adolescent, sexual behavior, reproductive behavior, self-care"*

Reviewer's comment: Background is too long. Omit the name of authors from text. The number of sources in the introduction section is too much.
Author's response: As requested, the Background section has been shortened and the number of sources have been reduced. Author names were removed except where we felt it was necessary. Please see the revised Background in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Report the name of ethics committee and approved code. How did you take their consent? Write at least 3 lines about considering the ethics.
Author's response: As requested, the Ethics section has been revised incorporating the requested information:

*"**Ethics:** The study protocol was approved by the Research Council and the Ethics Committee of Alborz University of Medical Sciences (Ethical code: IR.ABZUMS.REC.1400.225). Required permission was acquired from General Department of Education. Written informed consent was obtained from school managers and students before distributing the surveys."*

Reviewer's comment: If you had a demographic questionnaire, describe it.
Author's response: As requested, information regarding the demographic questionnaire has been added to the revised Methods section:

"Information regarding various socio-demographic (and other) characteristics were collected including: age, parents' age, birth order, number of siblings, educational grade, parents' education level, type of relationship within family, family structure, most influential family people in decisions and behaviors (parents, siblings, peers, others), whether they had adult supervision, adolescents perception regarding their and their families' religious beliefs (assessed on a Likert scale: 'very strong', 'strong', 'fair', 'weak' and 'very week'), information source regarding puberty/menstrual health and sexual health, and whether they had access social media."

Reviewer's comment: How about the interpretation of the total and subscales scores?
Author's response: Higher scores (in sub-scales and total score) refers to better sexual and reproductive self-care behavior status. As requested, this has now been added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Mention the name of the used statistical software
Author's response: Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 24. As requested, this has now been added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: How did you assess assumptions of linear regression?
Author's response: The assumptions of linear regression included the normal distribution of the outcome variable. The absence of the outliers was assessed and confirmed based on the Shapiro-Wilks test, and the centrality and dispersion indicators. This has now been added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Mention the considered significant level in your study.
Author's response: The significance level was $p<0.05$. This has now been added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Delete all values such as mean and frequency in the text if they are reported in the table. Refer to related table.
Author's response: As requested, the results section in main body of text has been revised. Please see the revised Results section in re-submitted manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: The discussion section needs a general revision There is not any discussion. You only reported your and other findings. Describe each finding and compare with other studies in one separate paragraph.
Author's response: As requested, the Discussion has now been reorganized.

Reviewer's comment: Do not repeat the scores in the discussion. These findings must be compared with other studies.
Author's response: Scores have been omitted in Discussion and findings have been compared.

Reviewer's comment: Omit all authors' names in the discussion and only report the year, city and country where the studies were done.
Author's response: As requested, author names have been removed in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Predictor of what variable?
Author's response: The predictor of sexual and reproductive self-care among adolescent girls. This has now been added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: You said several studies, but referred to one reference!!
Author's response: The words 'several studies' have now been omitted.

Reviewer's comment: Mention the strengths of your study
Author's response: As requested, the strengths of study have now been added to the revised manuscript.

Reviewer's comment: Tables: Describe the participants as female adolescents; All abbreviations in title and table must be defined in the tables footnote.
Author's response: As requested, the tables have now been revised.

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 5 Sep 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 5 Sep 2023

Thanks for revising the manuscript. However, a few corrections are needed.

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Revision 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

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Dear Editor
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript *'Predictors of sexual and reproductive self-care among Iranian adolescent girls'*. We have now addressed reviewer's comments, as described below. The changes that we have made to the manuscript are presented in yellow highlights. We hope that the paper is now acceptable for publication in the *Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Sciences*. We look forward to your reply. Thank you again for considering our manuscript.
Sincerely,

Corresponding Authors

Use the abbreviation name of journals according to NLM.

Reply: All journal names are replaced with abbreviations. Some did not have abbreviation.

Since you categorized the adolescent religious beliefs in table 1, mention the range of each category here.

Reply: The explanation is highlighted in content. This was a single item question, asking their perception in a five point likert scale. Please see above.

ustify the need to this study based on the lack or contradiction of information.
It was revised in article

3 Revision 2

1 comment · 15 Sep 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 15 Sep 2023

Thanks for considering the comments.