

**Response to comments on Rehman et al (J Pak Med Assoc. 2018; 68: 195)****Self-reported academic performance in relation to health behaviours among Bahria University students**

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We appreciate the reader for the kind insight into our article. We do know that CES-D scale has standard cut-off and is used to estimate the degree of depression but we have not used it to assess the symptomatology of depression. In our article, depression was not the dependent variable and we used academic performance as the key feature (dependent variable). The purpose of this study was to compare the self-reported academic performance with different socio demographic factors, health behaviors and mental health amongst university students in Pakistan. Therefore, we worked on identifying whether the different dimensions defined by the scale of depression used in our study affected the academic performance. The purpose was to highlight the individual components which were in direct negative relationship with the academic performance so that there is a ground to work on for the betterment of the students.

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Thanks for the comment that CES-D scale, developed by Radloff, et al, is designed to be computed as a numerical score, to estimate the degree of depressive symptomatology in a respondent.<sup>2</sup> Since we did not aim to assess the degree of depressive symptomatology and wanted to compare the self-reported academic performance with factors contributing to depression individually, we applied chi square.

In the article quoted by the reader, 'Depression among university students in Kenya: prevalence and socio demographic correlates' depression was the dependent variable and it was compared with socio demographics and other various variables.<sup>4</sup> On the contrary as stated above, academic performance was our dependent variable and not depression.

Thank you for the reader to let us work on the composited score and yielded depression status, we have also found the significant association of depression on academic performance. But, again that's an additional insight.