

Dears Editor and Reviewers of BMC Medical Education Journal

We sincerely thank you for your constructive feedback and insightful comments. In response, we have revised the manuscript thoroughly and addressed each point as follows:

1. Figure 15 clarity: We have redesigned the ecological mapping figure to include all 12 categories across four distinct layers (Microsystem, Mesosystem, Exosystem, Macrosystem), ensuring theoretical and visual accuracy.
2. Reference accuracy: All references have been audited, reordered, and updated. We have removed unused citations, added missing DOIs, and ensured full alignment with Vancouver style.
3. Research environment: We have explicitly stated that the study was conducted at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences (IUMS) in the methodology section.
4. Author roles: Roles of all co-authors have been documented in English and aligned with COREQ standards.
5. Supplementary materials: We have included the updated coding tree and COREQ checklist, Key Challenges Faced by PhD Students in Thesis Supervision and Academic Life and PhD Students Research Experience: Challenges Across Ecological Systems figures as supplementary files.

We truly hope these revisions align with your expectations, and we respectfully ask for your consideration for acceptance.

Warm regards,

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