Response to Letter Regarding Article, “Attained Educational Level and Incident Atherothrombotic Events in Low- and Middle-Income Compared With High-Income Countries”

We thank Dr Nabi for his comments regarding our publication that related attained educational level to cardiovascular disease outcomes in the REDuction of Atherothrombosis for Continued Health (REACH) Registry experience.\(^1\) Dr Nabi correctly interprets Table 3 of our report, which indicates that in women from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), there was no gradient in the rate of cardiovascular events across education groups. We believe that these data are fairly interpreted by our statement, “higher AEL may not be protective against cardiovascular events in LMICs, particularly in women.” Dr Nabi also questions our suggestion that the promotion of education in women in LMICs may be insufficient to reduce their cardiovascular risk, and that other interventions may be necessary, such as ensuring that women of all educational backgrounds have adequate access to health care. We agree that this area requires further study, and we hope that our findings are investigated more fully in other analyses in the future. We believe that the most important conclusion of our work is that studies conducted in high-income countries that link socioeconomic status (including educational attainment) to cardiovascular outcomes cannot be extrapolated to LMIC settings. It is essential to conduct separate studies in LMIC settings, which bear most of the global burden of cardiovascular disease.

Disclosures

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