Author's response to reviews

Title: Seroprevalence of Toxoplasma gondii and associated risk factors among pregnant women in Jimma town, southwestern Ethiopia

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Author's response to reviews:

Rebuttal letter to the editor in-chief,

Dear Dr. Philippa Harris,

We authors would like to thank the reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions which with no doubt would improve our paper. We addressed the comments and queries of the reviewers' point-by-point as follows:

Responses to comments of referee 1:

1. The English needs to be improved throughout…..
   • We authors tried to improve the English in the text as per the recommendation of the reviewer

   • We tried to discuss global prevalence of Toxoplasma in paragraph II of the introduction section and suggested references are included in the reference section as per the recommendation of the reviewer.

3. I think the above two references should also appear in the second paragraph of the discussion– the choice of comparative countries is limited. Use of these two references would also allow comparisons with the US, European Countries, China. This section needs an expansion to put the results here into context.
   • The results of the current study were compared with the works of the mentioned authors and those works are cited in paragraph two of the discussion section as
per the suggestion of the reviewer.

4. Page 11. There has been some recent suggestions that vertical transmission may also play a role in the generation of high prevalences of Toxoplasma. The authors should mention this. A suitable reference would be “Evidence for high levels of vertical transmission in Toxoplasma gondii. Hide G, Morley EK, Hughes JM, Gerwash O, Elmahaishi MS, Elmahaishi KH, Thomasson D, Wright EA, Williams RH, Murphy RG, Smith JE. Parasitology. 2009 Dec;136(14):1877-85.”

- The possible role of vertical transmission for the high seroprevalence of the parasite is mentioned in paragraph 7, lines 12-13 as per the suggestion of the reviewer.

Responses to comments of referee 2:

1. From the results section and the results presented in the table it is clear that the study subject participated in an interview or filled out a questionnaire (even though illiterate). This is not described in the methods and materials section, and the questionnaire could be published as a supplementary material.

- All study participants were interviewed by trained nurses using semi-structured questionnaire as indicated in paragraph 2, lines, 5-8 of the methods section and the questionnaire is also annexed as additional file as per the suggestion of the reviewer.