Author's response to reviews

Title: Spatial and temporal variation and hotspot detection of kala-azar disease in Vaishali district (Bihar), India

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Author's response to reviews:

To
Philippa Harris, PhD
Executive Editor
The Editor-in-Chief
BMC Infectious Disease

Subject: Regarding resubmission of our 3rd re-revised manuscript (MS: 8395604987201717) entitled “Spatial and temporal variation and hotspot detection of kala-azar disease in Vaishali district (Bihar), India” for publication in your esteemed journal.

Sir,

Thank you very much for your mail. We are resubmitting our 3rd re-revised manuscript (MS: 8395604987201717) entitled “Spatial and temporal variation and hotspot detection of kala-azar disease in Vaishali district (Bihar), India” for publication in your esteemed journal. We are very much thankful to the respected reviewer for their valuable comments to improve the manuscript. The point-wise answer has been given raised by the respected reviewer for your kind consideration. As such I also declare that Ethical approval other form of permission is not required for access of the data used in this study. It is for your kind perusal and future course of action.

Thanks and regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Corresponding Author)
Answers to the Reviewer's Comments

Comment 1: In response to "When detailing the "spatial weights" (lines 135-140), you say "Specifically, spatial weights we used, is based on the inverse geographical distance between the centroids of the kala-azar affected and non-affected villages." Do you really mean just between the centroids of affected and non-affected areas? Wouldn't the smooth procedure apply to any neighboring area independently of being affected or not? Please clarify. If you agree with my observation please change "between the centroids of the kala-azar affected and non-affected villages" by "between the centroids of neighboring villages." The would have to do the same in lines 137-138 and 138-139." the incorrect text still appears to be present in line 133-134.

Answer: spatial weights we used, is based on the inverse geographical distance between the centroids of neighboring villages. Yes........Smooth procedure applies to its neighbouring areas also. The line 133 – 134 has been corrected in the revised manuscript.

Comment 2: Please clarify if any ethical approval or other form of permission was required for access of the data used in this study. This should be included within your methods section within the manuscript as well as in your accompanying cover letter. If no permissions etc were needed please clarify this.

Answer: Ethical approval other form of permission was not required for access of the data used in this study