Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge and utilization of partograph among obstetric care givers in public health institutions of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
2nd point-by-point response to reviewers’ comments on the manuscript entitled “Knowledge and utilization of partograph among obstetric care givers in public health institutions of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia” (MS: 1682349722788410).

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We are once again very grateful for the very constructive and valuable comments the reviewers furnished us. We have taken due consideration of the comments provided and made all necessary revisions to the manuscript. We have provided a point-by-point response to the comments next.

Response to comments of Matthews Mathai
Comment: The sampling method is better written but will benefit from reorganization of text. I suggest that this section starts with information on the number of hospitals and staff (currently para 1 on Pg 9), then provide the sample size calculation (currently Para 2 on Pg 8) and then para 2 on pg 9.
Authors’ response: We have made revisions as per the suggestion.

Comment: Several covariates have been entered in the multivariate model. The sample size is relatively small in some of the categories. It is difficult to interpret the relevance of some very high adjusted ORs with wide CI. A reanalysis with a small number of covariates with fewer categories in the multivariate model would be beneficial for better understanding.
Authors’ response: We have carried out the multivariate analysis using small number of covariates with fewer categories. We have done this by excluding variables that have p-value of greater 0.20 on bivariate logistic regression analysis and also variables with p-
values of 0.05—0.20 that disturbed the adjusted ORs (i.e., those variables which resulted in unrealistically high adjusted ORs with wide CIs). We have also checked those variables that have multiple categories by recoding into few categories to see if more precise ORs could be obtained but still we couldn’t find any change. So, by excluding those variables that have multiple categories and that disturb the model giving very high adjusted ORs with wide CI, we have now small number of covariates with fewer categories that give more precise and meaningful adjusted ORs and CI. Accordingly, we have carefully edited the tables and text of the manuscript based on the reanalysis.

Comment: The authors state that “the majority of such deaths could be prevented by cost-effective and affordable health interventions like the partograph..” is not correct. The majority of maternal deaths are due to causes other than prolonged and obstructed labour but the partograph is an important tool in prolonged and obstructed labour. This sentence should be rephrased. Also the text should be better edited before publication. 

Authors’ response: We have thoroughly rephrased the stated sentence. We have also edited the text in this and other paragraphs to make the message intended to be conveyed clearer.
Response to comments of Bukola Fawole

Comment: The Authors had responded satisfactorily to my previous comments.

Authors' response: Thank you.