Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and determinants of unintended childbirth in Ethiopia

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Authors’ response to Editorial comments

Title: Prevalence and determinants of unintended childbirth in Ethiopia

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Dear Editor

With the submission of this revised manuscript we would like to thank for the editorial comments. The changes that are made on the manuscript are indicated in detail as follows in blue in line with each of the editorial comments.

Regards,

Yibeltal Tebekaw
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Editorial comments:

1. When education is related with less unintended birth (as is found also in your paper), it is a strange finding that women in the rich quintile have more unintended births. One would assume to find more educated women in the rich quintile anyhow. These findings contradict each other, but when these really follow out of this study that has to be discussed in the discussion. The authors discuss that some studies find more unintended births in the richer quintile and other studies find these in the poorest quintile, but you find contradicting data in one study which is different from what you discuss. The issue thus is: how do you explain or what are your thoughts on the findings of less unintended births in women with secondary education and more in women from the richest quintile, while their [there] will be an association between being educated and being more rich?

This is an important observation. The wealth index in the Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey data was constructed based on availability of household assets including refrigerator electricity, television, etc almost all of which are characteristics of the urban dwellers. Hence, we believe the index might not reflect the wealth status of both urban and rural residents fairly. With this in mind, we have now included the following paragraph in the discussion part of the revised article.
Unlike many previous findings whereby wealth quintile and educational status associate with unintended childbirth in the same direction ([7, 17, 22-24]), our finding shows a contradicting result in that women of higher wealth quintile households experienced more unintended childbirths while this was true for less educated women. It is worth mentioning here that most of the variables used in the construction of the wealth index in EDHS are characteristics of the urban residents than rural ones. Our analysis shows that 87.5% of the study population in the highest wealth quintiles were urban residents; and unintended childbirths were more prevalent among urban residents than rural ones. Besides, in EDHS educational status was not used in the construction of wealth index. Consequently, the wealth index in EDHS might not be a fair proxy reflection of the socioeconomic status of households at national level. Hence, the relationship between wealth quintile and unintended childbirth needs careful interpretation in relation to research findings from different setups or countries.

2. Everywhere where you have filled p=0.000 you better conform to the usual P<0.001

It is corrected accordingly.

3. You marvellously reduced the length of the paper already, but I still think you can reduce the length of your discussion, in which you give a lot of repetition of your results. Thus: try to reduce the length of your discussion.

The length of the discussion section was reduced by more than 200 words by eliminating repetition of results.

4. The reference list is not according to the rules: some journals are given in the right abbreviations while others are not.

Adjustments were made on the following references as per the rules:


5. Finally, I feel it is better to put your section on limitations in the discussion where you will normally find it.

The limitation section is moved to the discussion part.