Author's response to reviews

Title: Feeding styles of caregivers of children 6-23 months of age in Derashe special district, Southern Ethiopia

Authors:

Mekitie Wondafrash (mwondafrash@yahoo.com)
Tseganeh Amsalu (tseganeh2009@yahoo.com)
Mirkuzie Woldie (mirkuzie@yahoo.com)

Version: 6 Date: 10 February 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: **Submission of a revised version of the manuscript**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The authors are once again very grateful for the invaluable and constructive comments given by the editor for the improvement of the paper. We have accommodated the comments and queries from the editor on the manuscript entitled “*Feeding styles of caregivers of children 6-23 months in Derashe special district, Southern Ethiopia*”.

We made changes on the main document based on the comments given. However, we would like to give some clarification to some comments and questions separately.

Best regards,

Mekitie Wondafrash (MD, DFSN)

Corresponding author
General responses:

- The overall word count in the document has been reduced by 1000 words mainly in the introduction and discussion sections.

- All caregivers provided responses pertaining to some child feeding questions (n=826). Hence, the denominator is not the same as the denominators with which the caregiver feeding style is calculated (n=764).

- All the changes made by the authors have been incorporated in the main document.

Response to specific queries and comments:

Methods:

We have described the number of caregivers who were not found for interview after the census (19 in total) and the number of questionnaires excluded from analysis due to incomplete information on the main outcome variable (62 in total). This makes the final number observation used for the calculation of caregivers’ feeding style 764.

Responses for comments and queries on the tables:

Table 1: The missing in variable “Advice on young child feeding by a health professional” was because 110 caregivers did not visit a health institution with the study child and hence did not have the chance to get advice.

Table 2: The missing for the variables “Birth interval between the index and older sibling” and “Frequency breast feeding in the last 24 hours” was because asking on birth interval or frequency of breast feeding was not relevant for caregivers with only one past delivery and non breast feeding caregivers, respectively.

Tables 3: The reason for some missing values for the main outcome variable has been explained in the methods section in the main document.
Table 4: The final model has been modified by taking into account the missing values for the independent variables “Frequency of breast-feeding in the previous 24 hours”, “Advice on young child feeding by a health professional” and “Birth interval between the study child and older sibling” as explained above. The missing values were coded as one category and the variables were re-entered in the multinomial logistic regression model. The model has improved significantly and the number of observation has increased to 764. Moreover, the missing categories were not found significantly associated with the outcome variable.