Reviewer’s report

Title: Survey of nasal carriage of Staphylococcus aureus and intestinal parasites among food handlers working at Gondar University, Northwest Ethiopia.

Version: 1  Date: 3 July 2012

Reviewer: Inacio Mandomando

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Discretionary Comments to the authors

The authors report the prevalence of S. aureus carriage and parasites disease among food handlers in University of Gondar, Ethiopia. The study provide data on the carriage among food handlers is important to assess the potential risk of S. aureus associated foodborne outbreak that has important public health significance, particularly at local level. There is need for English spelling of the text, please review appropriately.

Specific comments
1. Please check the spelling of the names of pathogens like Strongyloides in the text
2. In pag 3, the sentence: “Many diseases are communicable …. and enter the body via food”. Please add “into” after enter
3. Please check the spelling of outbreak in the text
4. Please review the following sentence: “In United State of American ….. and in the United Kingdom restaurants were the second most important place for acquiring staphylococcal food Poisoning”
5. In page 4 the sentence “Though there were no or few indicative” replace “were” by “are”. Similarly replace “was” by “is” in following sentence “There was no doubt food..”
6. Page 6: In the sentence: “Isolates were identified as S aureus by growth characteristics on blood agar plate, MSA, Gram reaction…” replace “reaction” by “stain” and in the sentence “Intestinal parasites were investigated microscopically from each stool samples using both direct smears mount in saline and formal-ether concentration” replace “formal” by “formol”
7. In page 7 the authors present some of the most important data of the study. “In hand washing practices, 179 (89.5%) food handlers had a habit of hand washing after toilet while 21(10.5%) of food handlers had no habit of hand washing after toilet. While 148 (74%) of food handlers had the habit of hand washing with soap and water, the rest 52(26%) didn’t use soap for their hand after toilet. However, 92(46%) food handlers had a habit of hand washing after touching nose between handling of food items. Almost half of food handlers 93(46.5%) had no medical check up
previously including stool examination. This is an important piece of data for the whole manuscript, so it would be much more relevant and also improve the quality of the manuscript if the author would do detailed analysis stratified by level of education. Please provide this data including the rate of colonization.

8. There is no need to present the X2 value, provide only p-value.

9. In the result section page 6, six of the isolates were resistant to erythromycin, whilst 4 (9.8%) of the isolates were resistant to methicilin and ciprofloxacin, respectively include (%) of erythromycin.

10. Page 8, “The rate of isolation of S. aureus from the nasal cultures in our study 41 (20.5%) was found to be similar to those reported by several researchers as 21.6%, 23.1% and 26.6% respectively” delete “respectively”.

11. “In this study protozoan parasites were higher than helminthes” re-write the sentence.

12. “As noted in the (Table 8), G. lamblia and E. histolytica, cyst forms of the parasites are higher than the trophozoite form” There is no table 8 in the text.

12. “In this study, majority of food handlers working in the cafeterias were young adults 135 (67.5%) which was much lower than study done in Bahir Dar” Please replace “much lower” by “younger”.

13. More than half of (54.5%) the food handlers had medical checkup in the past. This % is different from that presented in the text (53.5%), please correct appropriately.

14. Table 1, provide a footnote or CMHS.

**Level of interest**: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.

**Quality of written English**: Needs some language corrections before being published.

**Statistical review**: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests**: I declare that I have no competing interests.