Author's response to reviews

Title: Health-Seeking Behavior and its Associated Factors among Tuberculosis Suspects in Northern Ethiopia: a population based-cross-sectional study.

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Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
To: Ms Audrey Ann Reyes
   Editor In-chief, BMC Public Health

Ref: Manuscript ID: 1749143240915571

Dear Ms Audrey Ann,

Thank you for showing interest on our article entitled "Health-Seeking Behavior and its Associated Factors among Tuberculosis Suspects in Northern Ethiopia: a population based-cross-sectional study."

We also appreciate you for the critical evaluation of our manuscript before sending it for further revision. Accordingly, we have responded to those comments point-by-point (attached). We also incorporated the comments in the revised manuscript. Hope the response we have provided and the changes we’ve made would satisfy the Editor. Thank you so much for your attention.

Kind regards:

Sebsibe Tadesse
Corresponding Author
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<th>Editor’s comments</th>
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| 1. Kindly include a reference to the questionnaire and details on this within the Methods section of your manuscript | **The previous subsection**

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| • “Participants and data collection”: | **“Participants and data collection”:**

All adults aged ≥15 years and permanently living at the study area were considered as source population. All adults aged ≥15 years who had cough for ≥2 weeks were included in the study. All adults who were seriously sick, already on anti-TB treatment, and not available during the time of survey were excluded from the study.

Pre-tested and structured interview questionnaire was used to collect data from TB suspects to assess their health-seeking behavior towards TB. The questionnaire contains detailed information on socio-demographic, behavioral and environmental factors which are believed to affect the health-seeking behavior of the study participants towards TB. Data collectors performed house-to-house visit and interviewed the representative of the household whether a person aged ≥15 years who is coughing for ≥2 weeks present or not. Then data on health-seeking behavior towards TB and associated factors were collected from each of the individuals who have cough for ≥2 weeks.

• “Data quality assurance”: | **“Data quality assurance”:**

The interview questionnaire was translated into Amharic, the official language, and back to English to keep the consistency of the questions. The training of data collectors and supervisors emphasized issues such as on data collection instruments, field methods, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and record keeping. The principal investigator and supervisors coordinated the interviewing process, made spot-checking and reviewed the completed questionnaires on daily bases to ensure the completeness and consistency of the data collected and conducted random quality checks by re-interviewing about 10% of the respondents. The interview questionnaire was pre-tested to identify potential problem areas, unanticipated interpretations, and cultural objections to any of questions in 25 respondents having similar characteristics with the study subjects nearby Dabat district. Based on the pre-test results, the questionnaire was adjusted contextually. Data entry was done by the principal investigator and another independent body and was then compared to check for any variation in results.

Not specified in the previous manuscript. |