Author's response to reviews

Title: Health-Seeking Behavior and Associated Factors among Tuberculosis Suspects in Northwest Ethiopia: A Population-based Cross-sectional Study

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Version: 5  Date: 19 June 2013

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

   Ref: Manuscript ID: 1749143240915571

Dear Dr. Audrey Ann Reyes,

Thank you for showing interest on our article entitled "Health-Seeking Behavior and Associated Factors among Tuberculosis Suspects in Northwest Ethiopia: a population-based cross-sectional study". We have responded to those comments point by point (attached). We did also extensive editing in order to fulfill the critical questions raised by the Editor. 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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<tr>
<th>Editor’s comment</th>
<th>Authors’ response</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. To me it is offensive to call a study participant a 'TB suspect' - though this may be an issue of English language usage in a country where English is not the first language.</td>
<td>Thank you so much for showing interest on our manuscript. We have replaced the term 'TB suspect' by the appropriate term in the document. And we also have made extensive language corrections.</td>
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<td>2. It is not clear in the methods how the interviewers actually screen in households to get participants who had the coughing for the requisite 2 weeks or more - even though there is IRB approval, the process of screening and recruiting only those with cough may be at minimum embarrassing and would certainly draw attention in the household and neighborhood to the persons eventually interviewed.</td>
<td>Thank you for the critical observation. Data collectors performed house-to-house visits and interviewed the representative of each household whether a person aged $\geq 15$ years and had cough for $\geq 2$ weeks was present or not. Then data on health-seeking behavior towards TB and associated factors were collected from each of the individuals who had cough for $\geq 2$ weeks. Finally, health education was given to the households with the intention to reduce stigma towards TB after completing the interview process.</td>
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Thank you!