Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Afework Mulugeta

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's report: 1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The authors have addressed topical issue (health seeking behavior) on TB from rural communities of Northern Ethiopia. In the study communities, passive case finding strategy is practiced whereby patient's understanding and response to the illness is essential to seek care and treatment. However, health care seeking behavior is highly influenced by socio-cultural factors and this article has attempted to identify the factors that influence health seeking behavior among people who had cough for at-least two weeks from rural communities of Northern Ethiopia.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The methods are appropriate but the section on sampling techniques needs modification by the authors. The sampling techniques or strategies used are not clearly articulated in such a way that readers can grasp the sampling strategy.

3. Are the data sound?
Yes, the data is sound. Information from quite large number of study subjects has been collected. But, there needs to be some kind of confusion with the data collected and the operational definition of their outcome variable. That needs serious attention and scrutiny (see comments on the method section in the attached document).

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes! The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes but no mention is made on the conclusion regarding one of the independent factors (family size) associated with health seeking behavior.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Not at all! The authors do pretty realize that their study had an obvious limitation such as recall bias, self reported data and others. But, no mention is made about the limitation of their study and approaches to address (except the training of data collectors and pretest) the limitations of their study. The HDSS at Dabat is
surrounded by the two study communities. Could contamination be one of the reasons for the high health seeking behavior towards TB? Would it be possible for the authors to say something about the health seeking behavior of the HDSS communities?

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes, they have acknowledged but there were citation in the reference list which were not totally used in the body of the document. The sources regarding the study area were not acknowledged.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The title needs modification to address the study objectives. The abstract is well written except the omission of one significant independent variable (family size) (for more comments see the attached review report).

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes, the writing is acceptable with minor language editorials.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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'