Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Service Utilization and Associated Factors among Debre Markos University Students, North West Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Survey in 2011

Authors:

Girmay Tsegay (girmshe@gmail.com)
Melkie Edris (edrismelkie@yahoo.com)
Solomon Meseret (mesisol@yahoo.com)

Version: 4 Date: 13 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Point-by-point Response to Reviewers Comment

Reviewer # 1 (Yordanos Belayneh Molla)

Dear Yordanos: thank you very much for your valuable comments on the Revised manuscript entitled “Assessment of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Service Utilization and Associated Factors among Debre Markos University Students, North West Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Survey in 2011” submitted for publication to the BMC Public Health.

We have revised the manuscript according to your comments and have made the required changes or modifications as indicated in the following point-by-point response and we used highlight in color to address the comments.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Abstract

Method part a cross-sectional study was done among 753 students drawn from Selected departments in Debre Markos University, North West Ethiopia, March 2011 using Multi-stage sampling technique.

Well accepted and we made the changes.

Results: A total of 711 students participated in the study of whom, 521(73.3%) were males. The majority

Well accepted and we made the changes.

Background

Children and youth have unique vulnerability to HIV infection (reference).

Well accepted and we made the changes.

Various researches in Ethiopia identified that utilization of voluntary counseling and testing service is low and its level of utilization varies among different segments of the population (reference).

Well accepted and we made the changes.
Method

The study population included all regular undergraduate students (Year I to year III) attending professional training at Debre Markos University.

Well accepted and we made the changes.

Results

Table 2:
1. The “variables” in bold that need revision Confidentiality (perceived confidentiality of VCT), Source of VCT (then put, Health workers, mass-media…etc in the list), knowing availability of… (knowledge about availability of ART in VCT site), perceived stigma (perceived stigma after positive result), risk perception (HIV risk perception), willingness to test (willingness to VCT), perceived importance (perceived importance of VCT)

Well accepted and we made the changes.

Figure 1: The last bar chart “Don’t believe will it help” revise as “Do not believe it will help”

Well accepted and we made the changes.

Discussion

This result is higher when compared with the health care professional students of Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania which revealed that voluntary counseling and testing utilization was 34.5% and….[12, 13].

Well accepted and we made the changes.

The most commonly cited reason that VCT users gave for getting an HIV test was 82% to know their status followed by 7% for marriage. This is consistent with finding in Kenya and Malawi which showed….. [12-14].

Well accepted and we made the changes.

This finding is supported by the assumption that VCT users could have more exposure/information/knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS before they came to VCT centres (reference).

Well accepted and we made the changes.
Point-by-point Response to Reviewers Comment

Reviewer # 2 (Bernard BN Njau)

Reviewer's report:
I have gone through the revised Manuscript and I'm happy that the authors have incorporated all important remarks. I recommend that the manuscript should be accepted for publication after proof-reading.

Dear Bernard: - Really I am very happy when I read your message thank you very much for your valuable comments on the manuscript entitled “Assessment of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Service Utilization and Associated Factors among Debre Markos University Students, North West Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Survey in 2011” submitted for publication to the BMC Public Health.
With best regards