Author's response to reviews


Authors:

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Version: 4 Date: 31 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Point –by- point responses of the comments

Editorial requests:

1. Both this study and Azage’s study were conducted in HCFs to determine the amount and evaluate the HCW management system in Ethiopia.
   - But Azage studies Health Centers in which:
     - Advanced procedures were not performed
     - The patient flows were low
     - The number of beds were also low
   - The study area also differ:
     - Azage studies rural towns (west Gojjam Zone
     - But this study was conducted in Addis Ababa, the capital city which is more advanced compare with West Gojjam Zone.
     - The people living in Addis Ababa are more advanced and literate.
     - The hospitals in Addis Ababa are also more advanced, etc.
   ⇒ All of the above elements affect the HCW generation rate and its management system. So it is risky to compare the amount of waste generated from health centers and hospitals in Ethiopian setup.
   ⇒ This study is also more advanced than Azage’s in that; a simple linear regression model was fitted for identifying factors affecting the HCW generation rate but not in Azage’s.

2. Provide a citation for reference 1:
   ✓ Azage M. Assessment of healthcare waste generation rate & its management system in health centers of West Gojjam zone, Amhara Region. A Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Community Health. Ethiop.J.Health Dev. 2007; 24(2):133 - 139.

Point-by-point responses for Magda M Abd El-Salam:

Title: the title is changed into “Assessment of the health care waste generation rates and its management system in Hospitals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2011.

Abstract:

Background: the sentence is changed into “This study aimed to assess the health care waste generation rate and its management system in some selected hospitals located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.”
Methods: Do you mean a period of one year? No, it is to mean, “Data was recorded by using an appropriately designed questionnaire, which was completed for the period of two months”.

Result: add results regarding HCW management system: The following is added.

“The waste separation and treatment practices were very poor. Other alternatives for waste treatment rather than incineration such as a locally made autoclave should be evaluated and implemented”.

Introduction:

1. The title changed from Back Ground into “Background”
2. In paragraph 3, corrected into: A study carried out in Iran and involved 14 hospitals indicated that the HCW generation rate was comprised of 51.6% of infectious waste, 47.2% general waste and 1.2% sharps (16). A study done in 3 public hospitals in Agra city, India revealed that the average waste generation per day was found to be 25.3 kg at Lady Loyal Hospital, 482.9 kg at S.N. Medical College & Hospital and 500.5 kg at District Hospitals (17).
3. Non-hazardous waste is abbreviated as “non-HW”. In the whole document it is corrected.
4. “Israel et al” is changed into “Haylamicheal et al” in the whole document.

Methods:

1. The study period is from March 1 to April 30, 2011.
2. A.A is changed into “Addis Ababa”
3. Under the title “study area”, paragraph 2, the sentence is changed into: “A similar assumption was followed by Khajuria and Kumar (17) and Issam et al (18)”.
4. Under the title “data collection”, “check list adapted from the WHO HCW” changed into “check list adapted from the WHO for HCW”.
Results:

1. Table 4 is referred in the text
2. “In to” is changed into “into”
3. Under the title “Health care waste separation, collection and transportation”, paragraph 1, the statement is rephrased as “In three hospitals, HCW materials were collected daily while the collection programme was irregular in the rest hospitals”.
4. Under the title “Treatment and disposal of health care waste” paragraph 1, the sentence is changed into “Four of the surveyed hospitals disposed of their waste on-site in their own incinerators”
5. Fig 4 is replaced by “Table 5”

Discussion:

1. In the first paragraph, this sentence “The highest generation rate for total HCW was found at Amanuel hospital (0.668 kg/patient/day) and the highest amount for HW was found at Hayat hospital (0.248 kg/patient/day) and in contrast the lowest rate for total HCW and HW was found at Bethezata hospital (0.525 kg/patient/day) and Amanuel hospital (0.172 kg/patient/day respectively” is changed into “The highest generation rate for total HCW was found at Amanuel hospital (0.668 kg/patient/day) and the highest amount for HW was found at Hayat hospital (0.265 kg/patient/day) and in contrast the lowest rate for total HCW and HW was found at Bethezata hospital (0.525 kg/patient/day) and Amanuel hospital (0.159 kg/patient/day respectively”.
2. In the second paragraph, the sentence is rephrased like “Also, in Palestine, similar results were obtained by Issam et al (2009) where the amount of HCW was positively correlated with the number of beds ($r_s = 0.79 (18)$).”
3. Muluken (1) is changed into “Azage (1)” – which is reference number 1.
4. “NGOs” is changed into “Non-governmental organization”
5. “CORR procedure” is a non-parametric analogue of multiple linear regression analysis.
References:

References number 1, 2, 21 and 23 are rewritten as the following:

1. Azage M. Assessment of healthcare waste generation rate & its management system in health centers of West Gojjam zone, Amhara Region. A Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Community Health. Ethiop.J.Health Dev. 2007; 24(2):133 - 139.

