Author's response to reviews

Title: Association of socioeconomic and behavioral factors with adult mortality: Analysis of data from verbal autopsy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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Version: 6 Date: 18 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Authors' response to reviews

Title: Association of socioeconomic and behavioral factors with adult mortality: Analysis of data from verbal autopsy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Version: 4 Date: 11 October 2012
Reviewer: Silvia Stringhini

The authors would like to thank both reviewers for the third round constructive comments. We have given our response to the comments one by one as follows and incorporated in the text document and yellow highlighted.

1. There are still English errors; I don’t know which the policy of BMC Public Health concerning this is. Authors keep on repeating that a Professor has checked the English, but I think the manuscript should be reviewed by a native English speaker, regardless of his/her academic status, or an English editor. Only in the abstract: overall is spelt “over all” and the first sentence of the discussion is “The findings from the analysis suggests”.

   - A native English speaker has reviewed the manuscript as the reviewer indicates.

2. Results for occupation should be reported even if they are not significant. Unfortunately, we cannot choose what to report depending on how nice the results are. If the authors think that results for education do not add much they have two choices: avoid saying that occupation was used as indicator of SES or present the results (maybe in supplementary analysis, or just writing a paragraph summarizing these results). If you say that you look at occupation, we must see results somewhere.

   - We have included occupation in the table and result section.
3. The authors state “With regard to educational status, those who had educational status of secondary school and above were less likely to have died from HIV/AIDS (AOR=0.61, p<0.001), while they were more likely to have died from malignancy related causes (AOR=1.49) (Table 6 &7)”. Compared to whom? This should appear in the text.

- It was compared to educational status of bellow secondary school and we have included it in the result section.

4. I still found very hard to follow the changes….to help reviewers, it’s a good idea to add the changed paragraphs into the cover letter and underlie the changes. Or to submit a version with track changes.

- Now yellow highlighted.
Authors' response to reviews

Title: Association of socioeconomic and behavioral factors with adult mortality: Analysis of data from verbal autopsy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Version: 4 Date: 21 September 2012

Reviewer: Georgie MacArthur

The authors would like to thank both reviewers for the third round constructive comments. We have given our response to the comments one by one as follows and incorporated in the text document and yellow highlighted.

Major compulsory revisions

Introduction:
The introduction has been amended to account for reviewers’ comments. However, overall, I think that some re-structuring is needed. It is not clear why the authors include content regarding diet/energy intake and the impact of trade and marketing on energy intake when these are not addressed in the paper. The last few sentences of paragraph 2 do not relate to the start of the paragraph which talks about more distal factors such as education and occupation.

- We have accepted this comment and modified the paragraphs and excluded those issues.

Paragraph 4 also overlaps somewhat with the first paragraph and I think that the 1st and 4th paragraph could be merged to include only the most relevant information.

- We have accepted this comment and merged the two paragraphs
Paragraph 5 regarding Khat use: the first sentence does not make sense and should be amended.

- **We have accepted this comment and modified the sentence.**

Paragraph 6: The findings reported here i.e. that one study reported an association between khat chewing and risk of AMI [ref 13] should be incorporated to paragraph 5 as there is some repetition in the content provided in this paragraph and the final sentence regarding ref [14] does not relate to the impact of khat use.

- **We have accepted this comment and merged and modified the sentences.**

**Minor essential revisions**

**Results**

Paragraph 4: In the second sentence regarding deaths attributable to CVD and poisoning, this text should read ‘non-communicable diseases’

- **We have accepted and modified the sentence.**

**Discussion**

The last paragraph of the discussion needs further adjustment to the language such that it mentions ‘those educated to secondary school level and above were…however, were more likely…’ The second and third sentences do not make sense at present and should be amended.

- **We have accepted this comment and amended the sentences.**