Author's response to reviews

Title: Strengthening Contact Tracing Capacity of Pulmonary tuberculosis Patients in Enugu, Southeast Nigeria: A Targeted and Focused Health Education Intervention

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Author's response to reviews:

COVER LETTER
Community Medicine Department
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The editor
BMC Public Health
Sir,

RE-SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT ENTITLED: STRENGTHENING CONTACT TRACING CAPACITY OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN ENUGU, SOUTHEAST NIGERIA: A TARGETED AND FOCUSED HEALTH EDUCATION INTERVENTION STUDY

We wish to re-submit the above manuscript for publication in your reputable journal in line with your policy of publishing intervention studies with a sound addition to scientific body of knowledge. Tuberculosis historically with its stigmatizing connotation regarded as a consumption disease is still inflicting untold health burden to the developing countries just as it is becoming less and less disease of public health important to the developed countries of the world. Since the world is becoming a global village and there is a collaborative effort to control most of the diseases ravaging mankind, tuberculosis had come in the forefront agenda for elimination as a public health problem by 2050 in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and STOP TB partnership targets. Among the set targets are to detect at least 70% of the estimated infectious cases, to cure at least 85% of the detected cases and to reduce by 2015 TB prevalence and death rates by 50% relative to the 1990 level. Increasing case finding and detection is the first step wise direction to achieving these laudable goals. In this article, targeted educational intervention technique has been used successful to improve TB case finding by enhancing the contact tracing capacity of the TB patients that enabled them to reach out to their household contacts and
subsequently bring them for screening and treatment. The information shared in this article will enhance the knowledge base and management as regard TB control especially in the developing countries and will help to achieve the much cherished MDGs 2015 targets and eliminating TB as a public health problem by 2050.

Details of changes made are as follows:

1. In the methodology section, the standard procedure of passing health education information to patients in the TB clinic in Nigeria was discussed and its flaws in terms of practice described. An enhanced process utilized in this work to improve practice and achieve effective result was discussed.

2. Result section was added

3. Discussion section was modified, figures resemblance of results deleted and discussion made in comparison with previous studies

4. Conclusion detailed with management and policy implication of the findings added and the need for planned health educational process advocated

5. More references were utilized and properly referenced in the appropriate section.

Yours sincerely

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