Author's response to reviews

Title: Transition in households' latrine use over time in rural Bangladesh: a longitudinal cohort study

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Author's response to reviews:

Reviewer name: Benjamin Arnold

(1) The name of study design has been changed to “longitudinal cohort study” as the reviewer suggested.

It was meant by “matched households” that the households who were present in all three rounds of survey were considered for analysis.

(2) Log-binomial model has been used to understand the probability of common outcome such as use of sanitary latrine in our study.

(3) A detailed description has been given on major limitations of this study at the end of discussion section. BRAC WASH programme is a large and comprehensive intervention integrating water, sanitation and hygiene. Other NGOs normally do not work in BRAC WASH intervention areas. Even if they have any intervention on WASH in BRAC programme areas, the type of intervention is not similar to BRAC WASH and the intervention is in a small manner.

Besides, the changes in latrine use were estimated visiting the same households before and after intervention during baseline and follow-up surveys. Based on the above clarifications, the authors state that the changes in latrine use are brought due to BRAC WASH programme.

(4) A guideline for reporting is suggested.

(5) Usage of English language and grammatical mistakes has been checked, but could not manage to check by a native English speaker this time. The authors keep strong wishes to get English-editing service by native speaker. If it allows in future, the author will send the manuscript to Next Generation at http://www.nextgenediting.com/nextgenediting-global-initiative/index.html which takes 2 weeks to edit the manuscript.

(6) Sample size and sampling has been reorganized and rephrased to some extent.

(7) Description on household enrolment and lost to follow-up has been included in Methods section so that a background of matched households included in analysis can be made comprehensible.
Definition of latrine cleanliness has been interpreted in the respective section.

The table has been separated into two so that it can be readable.

The model is changed to estimate risk ratio (not the odds ratio)

Table 5 is removed after necessary changes

Discretionary revisions

Some of the points are corrected and changed.

Reviewer Name: Abera Kumie

(1) In the title, word “sanitation” is changed to “latrine use”

(2) Methods section in the abstract is rephrased by changing name of study design

(3) The methods section is improved in terms of study design, changing regression model for analysis, application of systematic sampling, description of matched households, and description of data quality. Operational definition of outcome variable is indicated utilization meaning use of sanitary latrine. Major limitations of this study explained with additional details.

(4) Results and discussion section: Some parts have been changed and rephrased. An explanation on NGO membership has been given in discussion part. In our findings log-binomial regression analysis showed negative association between NGO membership and sanitary latrine use. But other studies showed different results of positive association.

Discretionary revisions

Comments attached with pdf tracked have been incorporated

Reviewer name: Varvara Mouch

Abstract: Comments were incorporated and rephrased in some cases to improve abstract.

Background and methods: necessary changes were made according to the comments

Results: necessary changes were made according to the comments

Discussion: latrine without water seal has been mentioned in result and discussion sections.

Table 5 has been removed after application of log-binomial model and necessary changes in analysis