Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of the magnitude and determinants of abortion among Wolaita Sodo female university students, Wolaita zone, Ethiopia.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear, Reviewers:

My Sincere Greetings,

We would like to thank your good office for the support provided all along.

We would also like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the reviewers of the article, for committing their time and effort to thoroughly go through the material and for providing their critical observation to enhance the quality of this research paper.

Essentially all of the comments forwarded by the reviewer were found to be relevant and were addressed accordingly. Below is an explanation of some of the measures taken and or possible explanation that may shade some light on some of the issues raised.

Methods:

- n = 21 is the number of students recruited, but not participated in the study or did not give any answers. Responses from participants who completed some portion of the questionnaire were included in the analysis and incomplete data treated accordingly.

- The use of 20% rate of abortion [from a study in northern Ethiopia] for calculating the sample size instead of the national, 2.3% resulted in a fairly larger sample size than it would, if we had used the national prevalence. [If we had used 2.3% the required sample size we would have ended up would have been only around 80]. The uses of a small sample size from a finite population like ours, for a relatively rare condition may result in erroneous conclusion. Therefore, the use of 20% abortion rate instead of 2.3% resulted in a fairly bigger sample size and was helpful in the analysis.

- There were too many sub headings under the methods section, accordingly, most of them have been eliminated and combined with other major headings.

- Regression Analysis: All the important background variables and historically significant variables were considered for Uni-variate analysis. And all the independent variables were entered into the analysis [Simultaneous Method] as the ratio of the number of cases to the number of variables above the preferred ratio [> 50 in both cases], we believe the regression model is stable.

- As per the research methodologies employed, we carried both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies [We carried out FGDs as well as in-depth interviews to triangulate the findings of the quantitative research. For convenience of publication however, we decided to present only the quantitative research results for the current journal. [As the reviewer rightly stated, even the quantitative aspect of the research is too
lengthy]. Some of the phrases relating to the qualitative aspect were included by mistake and have been cut out in the second draft.

- As rightly suggested, the use of post-hoc control group to determine risk factors for abortion was stated in the design section of methods

Results

- As suggested by the reviewer, we tried to reorder the results section. Accordingly, we brought forward the section of the result pertaining to level of abortion and associated factors. As was rightly commented, the results section of the manuscript was too long. Accordingly, some of the sections (including statistical analysis results of sexual experience) were left out for the sake of conciseness,

- Regarding the concern of the reviewer regarding inclusion of religious affiliation in the analysis, we would like to affirm that we did include religion both in the uni-variate and multi-variate analysis. In both cases, religious affiliation was not found to have a statistically significant association. However, this was not reported. Based on the comment, we reported religious affiliation in the revised manuscript.

- The independent variable "sexual violence" had very small values per cell. That made the model unstable and resulted in statistical error. In the revised version, this independent variable was left out of the analysis

- The fact that only a small fraction of students had their sexual debut yet most ended up in unwanted pregnancy and abortion requires an urgent attention, was included in the discussion as rightly suggested by the reviewer.

- Table 1 - ...Pocket money (n= 897) was a typing error, Corrected to n = 493

- ‘Embway’ is a traditional herbal medicinal plant, [Official name: Solanum marginatum L. f.], clarified in the text and referenced.

Finally, we hope the paper is in a very good shape now and we would like to affirm to you we stand ready to make further improvements you might dim necessary.

We thank you again and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,