Author's response to reviews

Title: Micronutrient Levels and Nutritional status of School Children Living in Northwest Ethiopia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewers

To: Editorial Manager of Nutrition Journal

Article title: Micronutrient Levels and Nutritional status of School Children Living in Northwest Ethiopia

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Point by point Response to Reviewers 1

We made the following major compulsory revisions as you have recommended and edited accordingly,

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Under 'collection of stool specimens and examination for helminths' the authors stated that subjects found to be positive for intestinal parasites were given anti-parasite chemotherapy. Can authors discuss why anti-parasite chemotherapy was used over alternative methods? Would this method cause any of the physical changes seen in the subjects (i.e. stunted growth, weight loss, etc).

Due to the cross-sectional nature of the study we didn’t observe any physical changes after treatment was given but we do know that the intestinal parasitic infections contributes to undernutrition due to reduction in dietary intake, decreased intestinal absorption, increased loss, etc. Therefore, treating children with intestinal parasitic infection will have a positive outcome.

2. The authors should provide data showing if a deficiency in any of the micronutrients leads to a greater infection of a certain parasite. This data would provide another layer to strengthen the data found.

The details of micronutrient deficiency on the intensity of parasitic infection (egg per gram) and on the levels of total and specific anti parasitic IgE is being prepared as a separate article with the
The objective of complementing deworming program that we are now working on for the better outcome.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. Multiple spelling mistakes throughout the paper.
   1.1. One that sticks out is school children. It is spelled two different ways in the paper: school children and schoolchildren. Needs to be corrected and kept consistent.

   **We use consistently school children**

   1.2. page: 7, change none-contaminated to non-contaminated;

   **None-contaminated has been replaced with non-contaminated**

   1.3. page: 10, change health burden to health burdens;

   **Health burden has been replaced with health burdens**

   1.4. page: 11 change indicates to indicating;

   **Indicates has been replaced with indicating**

   1.5. page: 12 (paragraph beginning with Magnesium) change study to studies;

   **we said in the current study to indicate in our finding**

   1.6. page: 12 (paragraph beginning with The present study) change occurring to occurred.

   **Occurring has been replaced with occurred**

2. Sentence structure needs to be fixed. On page 11, the sentence that begins with 'the prevalence of underweight in the present study' does not read clearly.

   **The prevalence of underweight in the present study has been replaced with in this study, the prevalence of underweight**

3. On page 14, the paragraph beginning with 'it is interesting to note that' should be as follows: It is interesting to note that the determination of the copper/zinc ratio has been considered helpful in reflecting the nutritional status of zinc in the human body, better than its content in serum [65]. It was also suggested that the copper/zinc ratio have diagnostic and prognostic values; if the ratio of copper/zinc exceeds 2 (Table 2 & 3), it would indicate severity of the infection [65]. In the present study, the ratio of copper/zinc was higher in serum of school children with severe nutritional status.

   **The paragraph has been changed as per your recommendation**

4. On page 10, the authors state 'deficiency for both selenium and zinc was observed in 34% of the school children'. However, this data was not clearly shown in Table 4. Please include in the table, or say "data not shown".

   **Data not shown has been included**

Very Kind Regards,
The team