Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of diarrhea and associated factors among under-five children in Bahir Dar city, Northwest Ethiopia, 2016: a cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:


Point by point responses for reviewer’s comment.

We thank the editors and reviewers for your time spent evaluating our manuscript. Please find below our response to your comments and suggestions. Your comments are essential and well taken. The comments and suggestions are incorporated in the main manuscript text. The responses are provided below as follows.

Reviewer’s comment Author’s responses
Reviewer-1
1. In Background section:-
   Line 12- should be a and not the
   Thank you for your valuable comment. It is corrected as comment given.
Line 21- Systematic sampling technique should be explained
Thank you for your valuable concern. Households having under-five children’s in selected kebeles were taken from health extension workers. The first house hold was draw by lottery method and every kth interval was included the study.

Line 54-it says food or liquid should be food or liquid
Thank you for your valuable comment. It is corrected as the comment given.

2. In Results section
Line 48- should be respondents practiced
Line 50- should be had fed.
Thank you for your valuable comment. All are corrected as comment given. See in the texts.

3. in Discussion section line 22- Should be Encouraging......was very important
Thank you for your valuable comments. It is corrected as comment given. See in the texts.

4. This is a very simple study but shows the effectiveness of keeping things clean as possible keeps down infection plus the use of good sanitation. It would have been even better if some lab testing for bacteria and parasites had been carried out showing what was there causing the diarrhea. Also the availability of health facilities and their use. Along with use of antimicrobial or anti helminthics.
Thank you for your valuable concern.

5. This is a simple but effective way of showing some very basic health education topics. Mainly keep things clean and you have less diarrhoe
Thank you for your valuable comment and concern.

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective
Thank you

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate
Thank you

8. EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately
Thank you.

9. Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study
Thank you.

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
Thank you.

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound
Thank you.

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The study has an excellent design and careful execution to answer a question about a common child health condition.
Thank you.
To help the authors understand my point, we can think about the sanitation practices and child growth. There are many observational studies that show that stunting is more likely in households with poor sanitation practices. But when 3 really large, really good interventional studies were done, one being SHINE in Zimbabwe where 18,000 vented pit latrines were constructed, the children did not grow 1 mm taller. So the association between poor sanitation and poor growth is that it does not mean poor sanitation caused poor growth. What these authors need to say is that this association that they found can be used for hypothesis generation for further evidence generation; it is not appropriate to say that encouraging the use/construction of latrines would be helpful. Going through the manuscript and seeing where the authors have done this would be an instructive exercise for them.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
The authors should remember that this is an association study, which is best used for hypothesis generation. They state that improving sanitation facilities in homes will result in less diarrhea. These data do not support this recommendation. The data simply associate sanitation practices with diarrhea.

Thank you for your concern. Since it is a cross sectional study, it doesn’t show effect relationship but association. So the recommendation is based on the association or observational study. Means cleaning utensil helps to reduce diarrhea occurrence.

Declarations
- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
- Acknowledgements

Thank you for your valuable comment. We corrected according to the comment given.