Author’s response to reviews

Title: Modern contraceptive methods knowledge and practice among blind and deaf women in Ethiopia. A cross-sectional survey

Authors:

Awol Yimer (awolisha@gmail.com)
Lebitsi Modiba (modiblm@unisa.ac.za)

Version: 1 Date: 21 Jun 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Point by point responses to the reviewers’ comments

Title: Modern contraceptive methods knowledge and practice among blind and deaf women in Ethiopia. A cross-sectional survey.

Reviewer- 1 - Dr. Rhoune Ochako
1. Background and Objective
   1.1 Need some language corrections
       Response – Accepted and the corrections are incorporated throughout the document
   1.2 The objectives which do not currently read so well.
       Response - Corrected – the objectives are written in the form of paragraph.
       The question marks are removed – corrections on page 4.
1.3 What is WWDs
Response - It is accepted and I have indicated what each alphabet stands – Women with disabilities (WWDs)- page 3.
1.4 What informed the choice of Addis Ababa for the study?
   Response - Addis Ababa was chosen as a result of the following reasons
   1. It is a city where you can get the study population from almost all ethnic groups and social classes.
   2. The city has also adequate target population in order to get the calculated sample size (165 blind and 165 deaf women) which could be difficult in other cities and districts.
   3. As far as my search, there is no exactly the same study done in Addis Ababa, it is the first by its kind in Addis Ababa city.

2. Methodology
   2.1 Usually people who live in cities are self-selecting, most of the time with higher levels of education among other characteristics as they move to the city to look for employment. This therefore leads to my question, was Addis Ababa then the best location for this study?
Response- Yes of course, people living in cities are more educated. The 2016
Ethiopia demographic survey indicated that 42% of rural and 78% of urban women aged 15-49 years are literate. But, in the context of Ethiopia a blind and deaf women reside in cities also encountered many challenges including cultural, poverty and system related barriers of commencing and completing schooling. For example, in this study 20.6% of the women are illiterate (no formal education), 24.2% are in the primary school grade category.

2.2 It’s not clear if PWDs were interviewed from all the 10 sub-cities
Response - Data/information regarding to this issue is included in the revised version on Page 4 and 7. The respondents were interviewed from all the 10 sub-cities. The percentage ranges from 3.7% in Akaki-Kality to 31.6% in Gulele sub-city of Addis Ababa.

2.3 Under data analysis the authors report that corrections for missing data was made. How does this alter the quality of data given that data collection had ended?
Response- Correction on page 6. It is rephrased as the missing data refers to those occurred during the data entry period by the data clerk mainly in relation to skip pattern command, not the missed data happened during the field data collection. The author has checked whether the data clerk missed the responses of the respondents to variables that must be replied by referring to the questionnaire.

2.4 While the authors report that face to face interviews was used, not clear who collected data
Response - It is clear in this revised document as indicated on page 5.

2.5 Was consent obtained from PWD before data collection?
Response - Correction on page 6. Yes, written consent was obtained from each respondents before beginning the interviewer.

2.6 Given that the study was done among participants who are under 18, how was consenting handled for them
Response - Correction on page 6. This study used the parental/guardian informed consent form and the assent form for participants aged 15-17 years old.

2.7 It is not clear whether the study received ethical approval
Response - Detail information pertaining to ethical approval was included on page. This study secured official ethical clearance from the Research and Ethics Committee, Department of Health Studies, University of South Africa and the Institutional Ethical Review Committee of Health Bureau of City Administration of Addis Ababa.

2.8 The authors should describe how the outcome variable is measured under methodology
Response- The comment is well taken and sub-section regarding Outcome variables measurement is presented on page 5 and 6 in this version.

2.9 Why is the study limited to women? don't men also need SRH services?
Response- The reasons emanated from the objective of the study, practice of using contraceptive methods for the sake of preventing pregnancy. Otherwise, Men need other SRH services like HIV counseling and testing, STI, condom, infertility and …).

3. Results
3.1 Marriage before age 18 is better described child marriage as opposed to early marriage
Response- Corrected as it is child marriage – page 7
3.2 The authors define illiterate as not having attended school, this is not always true
Response- It is corrected as it means can’t read and write and correction was made on page 7.
3.3 Table 1 - what do the asterisk mean?
Response- Below the table, information was provided concerning each asterisk. Page 9
3.4 Line 253 and 254: how was comprehensive knowledge measured?
Response- It became clear in the methodology section under the Outcome variables measurement part on page 5 in this version. Comprehensive knowledge on contraceptive methods is one of the outcome variables
3.5 Line 222 reports awareness to be 97.2%, later on, line 283 reports lack of awareness 23.5% being the main reason for non-use of modern methods. It will be useful for the authors to add the numbers in addition to the percentage to avoid any confusion
Response – Accepted and Correction made on page 12 and 15.
3.6 How was good self-perception measured?
Response - Additional information on measure of self-perception was presented on page 6. Self-perception is more of a continuous variable. In this study, 4 items with yes or no options were used to measure self-perception. These items are low self-confidence, dependency, inferiority and affect psychology. If the responses to all of these 4 questions/items was yes, then the woman was considered as having good self-perception.
4. Discussion
4.1 Line 302-305: The statement sounds a bit discriminatory and should be reworded, unless the authors were expecting otherwise
Response- The statement is reworded and avoided discriminatory words/phrases. Page 18
4.2 Line 306: I don't necessary support the comparison with Zimbabwe whose methodology is not reported. How about make comparisons with the rest of the population to enable us understand if PWD are disadvantaged
Response - The comment is accepted and this comparison was excluded in this revised version. Because the study population of the Zimbabwe are deaf youth whereas this study included girls or women aged 15-49 years.
4.3 It is not clear while the qualitative findings are not reported in the results section
Response- The comment is accepted and the summary of the qualitative results are presented on page 17 before the discussion
5. Conclusion
5.1 The authors report low use of modern contraceptive methods among PWD while no comparison is made with the general population in Addis Ababa or Ethiopia in general.
Response- The comment is taken into account and comparison was made with 2016 EDHS findings of Addis Ababa city. Correction on page 20.
1.1 Line 39-40: Change "and risk of sexual practices were common such as multiple sexual partner (52.0%), transactional 40 sex (19.7%), and unprotected sex (75.6%)." To "and risky sexual practices such as multiple sexual partner (52.0%), transactional 40 sex (19.7%), and unprotected sex (75.6%) were common."

Response: The comment is accepted and correction was made on page 1

1.2 Line 40-41: What is the relevance of rape in this study?

Response: Thinking of the objective of this study, it is not relevant. Thus, it is excluded from the result section. Instead, knowledge related finding were included in the abstract.

1.3 Line 44: delete lower

Response: It is deleted

2. Background

2.1 Line 103: remove the heading

Response: It is removed

3. Objectives

3.1 Line 113: This is written in the form of a dissertation. Kindly put everything in a paragraph format. No listing. Moreover, these are questions and not objectives. Is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)? Also the first question is not smart. Rather state "what is the level of sexual activity among ………..."

Response: The comment is accepted and I have rephrased the writing style of these objectives and it became clear as presented in the form of paragraph on page 4. Yes of course, the study has 3 clear objectives.

3.2 Line 165-169: Very unnecessary. Delete

Response: The comment is accepted and these statements/lines are deleted.

4. Results

4.1 Table 1: Insert column percentages for the blinds and the deaf eg 20(12.3) 4(2.4 etc). Also delete all percentage signs (%) except in the column headings. Insert total in the last row of the Table.

Response: Comment well taken and the correction is provided on page 8-9

4.2 Line 200-219: It would have been great to have this information presented in a Table and compared among blind and deaf.

Response: Accepted and the information is summarized and presented in the form of table (table 2) on page 11 and table 3 became table 4.

4.3 Table 3: Why did the authors exclude several of the respondents characteristics listed in Table 1. Authors could have even compared usage among the blinds and the deaf

Response: The table only include six characteristics which have shown statistical association with the use of MC methods. The bivariate analysis included almost all of the variables indicated in table 1. Comparison was made b/n deaf and blind women on the use of MC methods–Page 14 and 16

4.4 Line 290-293: The interpretation is inadequate. State that the "the odds of using modern contraceptives was higher among older women, ………..."

Response: Corrected as per the suggestion – page 15-16

4.5 having good self-perception does not increase the odds of MC usage. You reported a OR of 0.52(0.28 , 0.98) for those who perceived themselves as "able women". Odds less than 1 is lower except your reported values are misplaced!
Response- The interpretation is provided on page 16. As you said good self-perception do not increase the use of MC methods when compared with low self-perception.

4.6 The outcomes of the qualitative study was poorly presented. It was mixed up with the discussion. Authors should rewrite this section. Qualitative results should either be presented with each study themes alongside the quantitative results or immediately after the quantitative.

Response- The main qualitative findings are presented immediately after the quantitative results.

Correction on page 17.

5. Discussion

5.1 The discussion should contain policy implications

Response- Policy relevant implication are included in this revised version – corrections on page 20.