Author’s response to reviews

Title: Knowledge, uptake of preconception care and associated factors among reproductive age group women in West Shewa zone, Ethiopia, 2018.

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Version: 4 Date: 04 Oct 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

We are very grateful for the very constructive and valuable comments both reviewers furnished us. We have taken due consideration of the comments provided and made all necessary revisions to the manuscript. We have provided a point-by-point response to the comments hereunder

Point-by-point response to reviewers’ comments on the manuscript entitled “Knowledge, uptake of preconception care and associated factors among reproductive age group women in west shoa zone, Ethiopia, 2018.

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Response to DR.Neelam Aggarwal(Reviewer 1):

1. Comment: Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

   Authors’ response: thank you ,we send supporting materials like questionnaires used in the study and we also change one table in to graph as per comment

2. Comment: Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Authors’ response:
Authors’ response: Thank you, we have extensively edited the manuscript. Reference formatting revised.

Response to DR. Kedra Wallace (Reviewer 2):

1. Comment: There are several grammatical and spacing errors throughout the manuscript that need to be corrected.  
Authors’ response: Thank you, we have extensively edited the language in which the manuscript is written giving due emphasis to the grammar and mechanics.

2. Comment: Please insert page numbers  
Authors’ response: Thank you for pointing this out, we will insert it.

3. Comment: There are inconsistencies in the use of preconception care, PCC and pre-pregnancy care. Please use one term.  
Authors’ response: Thank you, we revised in the manuscript as per comment.

4. Comment: What is the millennium development goal?  
Authors’ response: Thank you, millennium development goal is passed and we changed to sustainable development goal (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopt a systems approach that depends on a comprehensive and integrated economic and social policy. Ethiopia achieved almost all its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the nation now faces the challenge of attaining the objectives aligned with the SDGs. According to EDHS (Ethiopian demographic, health survey) 2016 maternal mortality had fallen to 420/100,000 and Neonatal mortality rate per had fallen to 29/1000 children, 2030 SDG target for maternal mortality and neonatal mortality 199/100,000,10/1000 is planned respectively. The plan can be achieved by different strategies from those integrations of preconception care with the existing services.

5. Comment: In the methods section the authors state that according to a census that was taken in 2007 the population in 2017 was 1,214,350. How was this number extrapolated over an eleven year time period?  
Authors’ response: Thank you, we have omitted that figure and revised the other figure in the paragraph to help clarify the message being conveyed in the manuscript.

6. Comment: If 71.6% of the study participants have been pregnant before, then how are 56.9% pregnant for the first time? Are the authors trying to say that 71.6% of the participants had at least one pregnancy (14.7% multiparous)? If so just say that and leave the rest out.  
Authors’ response: We have revised it accordingly.
7. Comment: When and where were the surveys administered and by whom? How were the study participants identified?
Authors’ response: Thank you, the study was conducted in west shoa zone from November 2017 to the end of January 2018. We include study area and period in the manuscript. We have included brief details of the sampling procedure to clarify the description of the sampling method and how study participants identified.

8. Comment: What is meant by "index child"?
Authors’ response: Thank you, the term is used to represent “the recent pregnancy”. But accepted your concern and we corrected it

9. Comment: It is unclear how the PCC data was calculated. Please include the questions, and the scoring systems as supplemental data.
Authors’ response: Thank you; we have thoroughly revised the stated paragraph. Now we feel that it is no more confusing and ambiguous to readers.

10. Comment: Do the authors mean to use revealed instead of reviled?
Authors’ response: Thank you, we omit the word reviled and replace by revealed

11. Comment: What is the age range for reproductive age women in this study?
Authors’ response: since we include among married women the reproductive age group in this study was 18-49 years.

12. Comment: Tables 2 & 3 are very confusing and cannot stand independently.
Authors’ response: Thank you, We accept the comment change table 2 in figure to give clear information and also we made some clarification on table 3 in the manuscript.

13. Comment: What is the importance of Table 4 or 5?
Authors’ response: Thank you, Table 4 and 5 shows the bivariate and multivariate regression output. That helps readers to have a better understanding of associated factors and co-founders. It also helps other researchers to have important information that may help them to calculate the sample size and other statistical computations. We merge table 4 and 5 together in the manuscript as per comment.

14. Comment: How can media coverage impact PCC? This relationship is not clear.
Authors’ response: Thank you, In the media there are different health awareness creation programs are transmitted that encourage women to utilize maternal and child health services and the importance of having a regular medical checkup. Most of MCH programs directly or indirectly touch PCC. This may increase women's knowledge of PCC and also encourage utilization of PCC.
15. Comment: Are there any health classes that might cover PCC offered in higher education (i.e. grades 9-12 and college courses) which might serve as one reason why these women are more familiar with some aspects of PCC?
Authors’ response: Thank you, Yes, in grade 9-12 there are reproductive and sexual health topics included in biology and life skill approach programs. And the students also have a chance of participating in health clubs which is found in every high school. The same is true for college students. Every tertiary level colleges and universities offer life skill and reproductive health programs either in the curriculum or as extra-curricular programs.

16. Comment: Did religion or ethnicity have an impact on PCC?
Authors’ response: thank you, unfortunately, in this specific study, we didn’t find any statistically significant association between religion or ethnicity to PCC. But we include those variables to show the socio-demographic distribution of the study participants as other similar previous researches.