Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge and practice of Tuberculosis infection control among health professionals in Northwest Ethiopia

Authors:

Chanie Temesgen Dr (chanie.tem@gmail.com)
Meaza Demissie Dr (meazademissie@gmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Tuberculosis infection control (TBIC) is an area where countries should invest to prevent and control the spread of tuberculosis (TB). Sub-Saharan countries including Ethiopia are one of the regions with the highest HIV burden. TB infection and co infection with HIV have been additional challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In addition, TB is the commonest cause of morbidity and mortality affecting the workforce of the region in general and Ethiopia in particular.

Knowledge and practice of TBIC affects the implementation and outcome of infection control practices. Evidence on the existing knowledge and practice level is important for policymakers and implementers to take appropriate action to break the transmission cycle of TB. Hence publishing this paper will contribute to the knowledge pool in sub-Saharan Africa to enable evidence based decision.

Point by Point Response to Reviewer’s Comments; April 2014
I. General comments:
1. The authors have addressed most of my previous comments. However, there are several editorial problems especially use of abbreviations for Tuberculosis Infection Control (TBIC) should be checked and abbreviated through the whole document starting from the abstract. Similarly, tuberculosis should be abbreviated as TB through the whole document. Appropriate use of capital and small letters, use of coma after phrases like moreover, on the other hand, hence etc should be checked.
Response:
• Authors checked Tuberculosis Infection Control (TBIC) and abbreviated through the whole document starting from the abstract.
• Authors checked Tuberculosis and abbreviated as TB through the whole document.
• Authors checked for capital letters, small letters and coma and corrected according to the recommendation from the reviewer.

II. Abstract part
2. Define AOR
Response: Authors included definition to AOR
3. Recommendation needs to be included in the conclusion based on the findings of the study
Response: Recommendation included based on the findings of the study

III. Background
4. Paragraph one, line 6, “should be corrected as “combination of control measures……. have been........
Response: Authors corrected paragraph one, line 6, as “combination of control measures... have been...
5. paragraph two, line 4, define HCW
   **Response:** Authors defined HCW as per the recommendation

**IV. Methods**
6. paragraph one, line 2, delete “the capital of Ethiopia”
   **Response:** Comment taken and “the capital of Ethiopia” deleted from Paragraph one, line 2,
7. paragraph one, line 3, modify as “the study hospitals were selected based on the flow of TB patients”
   **Response:** Paragraph one, line 3, modified as “the study hospitals were selected based on the flow of TB patients”
8. Paragraph three, line 7, it states that individual participants were randomly selected”. How the randomization was done?
   **Response:** Authors clarified how the randomization was done under Paragraph three, line 7

9. Paragraph five, line 1, Good knowledge correct as good knowledge. The same paragraph, line 2, deletes “it”. Line 4, main Dependent/Outcome Variables, correct as main dependent/outcome variables. Line 5, Exposure correct as exposure
   **Responses:**
   - Paragraph five, line 1, Good knowledge corrected as good knowledge.
   - Authors deleted “it” from Paragraph five line 2, as per the recommendation
   - Paragraph five, line 4, “main Dependent/Outcome Variables”, corrected as main dependent/outcome variables.
   - Authors corrected “Exposure” in Paragraph five, line 5, as exposure

**V. Results**
10. paragraph one, line four, “ of which” correct as of whom
    **Response:** Authors corrected “of which” in paragraph one, line 4, as of whom
11. paragraph four, line 1, add comma after moreover, line five after Generally, and line 6, after on the other hand
    **Responses:**
    - Authors added comma after moreover, under paragraph four, line 1,
    - Authors added comma after Generally, under paragraph four, line 5,
    - Authors added comma after on the other hand under paragraph four, line 6,
12. The same paragraph, line 6, correct as 34.2% of the respondents knew. Line 8, correct as in minimizing
    **Responses:**
    - Paragraph four, line 6, corrected as 34.2% of the respondents knew...
    - Paragraph four, line 8, corrected as in minimizing
13. Paragraph five, is the indicated OR, COR or AOR?
    **Response:** It is the AOR that is indicated under Paragraph five
14. information on the effects/associations of educational level and year of service with TBIC knowledge is important
    **Response:** Authors added information on the fact that the study didn’t show association between years of service and education level with TBIC knowledge
VI. Discussion
15. Paragraph 12, “The most impressive finding of this research was, under each TBIC practice question, health professionals with good TBIC knowledge were more likely to implement the tuberculosis infection control practices compared to those with poor knowledge. Similarly, respondents with good overall TBIC knowledge were also more likely to have good TBIC practice compared to those with poor knowledge, OR 10.6 and 95% CI (5.8, 19.3). - Health professionals with good TBIC knowledge were more likely to implement the TBIC practices compared to those with poor knowledge. This is not impressive, this is what you expect. Please, modify this paragraph.
Response: Comment well taken and authors modified this section of the discussion.

VII. Acknowledgement
16. My deepest thanks, correct as we thank the Amhara....
Response: My deepest thanks, corrected as we thank the Amhara....
17. My thanks correct as our thank ......or we also thank............
Response: My thanks corrected as our thank ......

18. Table1. Include training on TBIC and year of service as variables in table 1
Response: Training on TBIC and years of service included as variables in table 1.