Reviewer’s report

Title: Mothers' Health Care Seeking Behaviour and Associated Factors for Common Childhood Illnesses, Northwest Ethiopia: Community Based Cross-sectional Study

Version: 2 Date: 08 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Andrew DWYER

Reviewer's report:

The authors have made a good effort in responding to the prior comments and the manuscript is improved. The test requires a fair amount of copyediting and attention to the references to be suitable for publication (below). The authors still need to comment a bit more in the Results on the negative study findings as noted in the prior comments (Reviewer 1 & Reviewer 2). I suggest reframing the conclusion for clarity (lines 37-47). I humbly suggest the following. These findings suggest a need for interventions aimed at improving mother/caregiver awareness and perception of common childhood illness. Further, the findings implicate the Woreda (district) health office, healthcare professionals, health extension workers, health development army, and local "one-to-five" community groups as key stakeholders. A variety of community-based platforms could be used to accomplish this including gatherings, home visits, and through existing community services.

Table 1: I suggest analyzing the education mothers vs fathers to determine if they are significantly different (which they appear to be).

Table 2: change to "Mother/caregiver" in title, "Mothers healthcare seeking behavior to "healthcare seeking behavior", remove "to to" for traditional healers and Holly water. Is "Holly water" really "holy water" or is it an extract of the holly plant - please clarify and harmonize throughout the manuscript and figures/tables, "Perception of mothers' on the need of seeking health care early" to "perceived need for seeking early healthcare", "Reported common child illnesses three months preceding the survey" to "Reported common childhood illness in the past three months", "Mothers' awareness on sign on severity of illnesses" to awareness of signs indicating severe illness", "Mothers' perception on causes of child illness" to "perceived cause of child illness", remove "Due to" from all items.

Table 3: change "Wealth quintiles" to "dichotomized wealth*" and add below the table "* poor = quintile 1-3, rich = quintile 4-5"

Figure 1: "Time of mothers' health care seeking..." to "Time to seeking healthcare...", change labels to "within 1 day, 2-3 days, 407 days, >7 days"

Figure 2: "Mothers' reasons for not to seek health care during their children illnesses..." to "Reasons for not seeking healthcare for child's illness...", change labels to "self limiting illness, belief in traditional medicine, work load, financial, distance, indecision"
Pending these changes I feel that this is appropriate for publication. I have attached a copy with extensive suggestions for clarity and grammar for your consideration.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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