Author’s response to reviews

Title: Improved Performance of District Health Systems through Implementing Health Center Clinical and Administrative Standards in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia

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Point by point response

Manuscript Title: “Improved Performance of District Health Systems through Implementing Health Center Clinical and Administrative Standards in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia.”

On behalf of all the authors would like to thank all editors and reviewer for your invaluable comments and suggestions. I herewith submitted manuscript for potential publication only in BMC Health Services Research Journal.

The following commented are properly addressed:

Editor Comments:

Comment 1: However, you may need to check and correct grammatical errors throughout either by consulting the English editing service or by the native speaker to improve the quality of the manuscript which is critical.

Comment Accepted: the manuscript is reviewed by native speaker.

Comment 2: LINE 110: "Hence, the ministry was able to expands demands" ----- PLEASE CHANGE TO "Hence, the ministry could able to create demands and to expand----outcomes".
Comment accepted: on page 3 line 110-112, the following change was made.

Hence, the Ministry is in a favorable position to create demand and to expand access to effective interventions to improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.

Comment 3: LINE 197: "These included"

Comment accepted: on page 5 line 199, the following change was made.

These include; provision of training on the standards, self-assessment and validation of measurements, performance improvement, and reporting progress, coaching, observing, providing feedback and developing agreed action plans.

Comment 4: Page 5: Please move up the explanation of health center to LINE 226 and correct the grammatical errors in the sentence.

Comment accepted: on page 5 line 228-230, the following sentence moved up and necessary correction was taken.

According to the Ethiopian Service Standards [10] health center shall mean a health facility at the primary level of the healthcare system which provides promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative outpatient care including basic laboratory and pharmacy services with the capacity of 10 beds for emergency and delivery services.

Comment 5: LINE 234: 'A group of experts which consisted of----'

Comment Accepted: page 6, line 239 – 241, the sentence was corrected as presented below.

A group of experts which consisted of the Federal Ministry of Health, USAID and IFHP rated achievements in accordance with the indicators with scores out of 100 percent

Comment 6: LINE 274: please remove 'were'

Comment accepted: the word was deleted.
Comment 7: Replace the short form ' & ' and replace 'and'.
Comment accepted: all 25 short form ‘&’ were replaced with expanded form ‘and’.

Comment 8: LINE 398: 'This pre-post intervention survey highlighted'
Comment accepted: on page 9 line 403-404, the first sentence edited as follow.
This pre-post intervention survey highlighted the importance of performance improvement through implementing clinical and administrative standards to strengthen district health systems.

Comment 9: LINES 471 to 473: Please check and correct grammatical errors.
Comment accepted:

Comment 10: LINE 477: Please rewrite: 'This quasi experimental study had following limitations'.
Comment accepted: On page 11 line 482 the first sentence corrected as below.
This quasi experimental study had several limitations

Comment 11: Change 'didn't' to 'did not'.
Comment accepted: correction taken in the whole document.

On half of all authors

Best regards,

Mesele D Argaw