**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Prevalence, distribution and social determinants of tobacco use in 30 Sub-Saharan African Countries

**Authors:**

Chandrashekhar T Sreeramareddy (chandrashekharats@yahoo.com)
Pranil Man Singh Pradhan (pranil.pradhan@gmail.com)
Shwe Sin (drshwesin@gmail.com)

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**Author's response to reviews:**

Dear Editor

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One behalf of our authors team, i first thank the journal for further considering R2 version of our manuscript for publication in BMC Medicine. Reviewer -2 had further comments on R2 version about. We have addressed those comments in the R3 version.

In accordance with editorial suggestion, we have checked the whole manuscripts for inconsistencies, between tables and text under the results section. A few minor errors were identified and rectified. Further, our colleague Assoc. Prof. Dr. Robert Chen a Canadian national (a native English speaker) carefully proof read the whole manuscript, and corrected some typos and minor grammatical errors.

**Title:**

Prevalence, distribution and social determinants of tobacco use in 30 Sub-Saharan African Countries

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revision:**

1. After a third read of this paper, I realized that there is a sentence in the first paragraph of the Background section that is incorrect: "Nevertheless, data from these surveys do not accurately reflect tobacco use estimates, patterns, and types of tobacco products consumed in any single region." The authors should change the incorrect sentence to: "Nevertheless, data from these surveys do not comprehensively reflect tobacco use estimates, patterns, and types of tobacco products consumed in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Authors' reply

The suggested correction has been made, in background section by including the
suggested statement by reviewer-2.

2. The new paragraph under "Association of smoking and SLT use with social factors among men and women has some errors. For example, "1.23 fold and 3.26 fold" seems to be incorrect - it looks from Table 4 that it should be "1.24 fold and 3.36 fold." According to table 4, area of residence was not associated with SLT use for men or women - the text implies that it was not associated with SLT use only among women. Finally, the odds of being a smoker and SLT user were elevated among men who had no religion or traditional religion. Only the odds of smoking (BUT NOT SMOKELESS USE) were elevated among women who had no religion or followed a traditional religion. The text incorrectly implies that the odds were also elevated for women who used SLT. smokeless.

Authors' reply

The numbers in table 4 have been verified with those in the text. In addition, other text which implied wrong interpretations of the results in table 4 were corrected as per reviewer-2 suggestions.