Author’s response to reviews

Title: Is a woman’s first pregnancy outcome related to her years of schooling? An assessment of women’s adolescent pregnancy outcomes and subsequent educational attainment in Ghana

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Version: 4 Date: 28 Aug 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

My co-author and I are once again grateful to you for reviewing our manuscript titled ‘Is a woman’s first pregnancy outcome related to her years of schooling? An assessment of women’s adolescent pregnancy outcomes and subsequent educational attainment in Ghana.’ We appreciate the feedback and have modified the manuscript based on the comments received. Find below the responses to the comments.

ABSTRACT

Line 28: Please replace the word ‘non pregnancy’ with ‘not becoming pregnant.’

Response: This has been changed.

Line 42: Please could you explain what you mean by factoring in age.

Response: This has been changed to ‘controlling for’ which is a better term. The term ‘factored in’ has also been revised throughout the text with more appropriate terms such as ‘controlling for’ or ‘included in’.

Lines 43-44: Please could you explain why the results different in the 30-39 year age band. You have done so in the main body of the paper, but it would be useful if you could it briefly here.
Response: A sentence to explain the contradictory results for the 30 to 39 year old group has been included.

Lines 45-46: The conclusion does not flow logically from the findings. Could you review and revise it.

Response: The conclusion has been revised for it to flow more logically.

INTRODUCTION

Line 82: Please add the word ones after the word geographic.

Response: This has been changed.

Line 85: Reference 6 does not seem to be complete. Please could you check the wording of reference 8.

Response: Reference 6 was complete in the reference managing software, however, due to the reference style being used, the full name of the journal does not show up in the references. This has been rectified by us removing the brackets around “English Edition” so that the journal name ‘Population (English Edition)’ can be displayed in the abbreviated version and not look incomplete. In addition, reference 8 was also checked and modified. The word JSTOR has been removed; all other information reflects the journal information.

Line 285: Please add the words ‘they report’ after the words ‘reducing the number’.

Response: This was done with slight modifications. The words ‘they report’ have been placed after the words ‘reducing the number of repeated abortions’.

Line 288: Reference 36 does not relate to the statement being made.

Response: The reference has been changed to a more appropriate paper (Aziato et al., 2016) which highlights perceptions about adolescent pregnancy from various groups and expresses the shame and stigma associated with adolescent and pre-marital pregnancy in three urban settings in Ghana.
RESULTS

Line 327: Please replace the word was with the word were.
Response: The word ‘was’ has been changed to ‘were’.

Line 329: Please add the word mean before the word age.
Response: The words ‘the mean’ was inserted before the word ‘age’.

Please replace the word dropped with the word excluded.
Response: This change has been effected.

DISCUSSION:

Line 383: Please add the word to before the word assess. Please add the phrase ‘between educational attainment and pregnancy outcomes’ before the word across.
Response: These changes have been made.

Line 402: Please check if the words ‘ even if’ should be there?
Response: The sentence was modified so that portion now reads “…but that eventually having a baby…”

Line 406: Reference 19 does not relate to the statement made.
Response: This reference which is also rather old has been removed. We however used the reference because Bleek discusses as his first reason for induced abortion among the Akan, pregnancy while schooling. He alludes to young women’s use of induced abortion to stay in school. He also talks about young girls not returning to school after giving birth.

Lines 406-407: Therefore delaying… due to pregnancy: This sentence does not seem right. Could you please check.
Response: The sentence has been modified to read “…delaying childbearing well after adolescence should result in girls staying in school longer, especially if their motivations for discontinuing were due to pregnancy”.

Line 414: Reference 41 does not seem to be complete.
Response: The reference is a working paper. The information has been modified in the reference software manager in order for the complete information to be shown in the references.

Line 417: Reference 19 does not seem appropriate here.
Response: This reference has been removed.

Line 418: Please specify the context of the Xie et al paper.
Response: Some context about the paper is cited. It includes information about the sample and results from the study.

Line 428: Reference 19 does not seem appropriate here.
Response: This reference has been removed.

Line 472: Please replace the words ‘hampered on’ with ‘had a powerful negative effect on’.
Response: The change has been effected.

Line 473: References 47 and 48 do not seem to be complete.
Response: The references have been modified.

Line 490: This report is over 2 years old. Please consider using a more recent one.
Response: The 2016 Family Health Division Annual Report is the most recent report and has been included as a reference in addition to the 2015 Family Health Division Annual Report that was previously cited. This is because the 2015 report offers more detailed information on the adolescent reproductive health programmes that took place in 2015 and have been continued throughout 2016; and hence they both provide current information. The years cited for the reports have been modified to reflect the year the report was published and not the year the activities took place.

As the reference was being modified, we also took the opportunity to modify the subsequent sentence.

Line 506: Please provide a reference for this statement.

Response: The Bleek (1981; 1990) references were used here as they emphasize the role of education on induced abortion among young women. There is also a discussion about unintended pregnancy disrupting education unless aborted in the Aziato et al. (2016) paper which is also cited.

In addition to the set of comments received, we also read through the entire manuscript and made modifications to the references.

Once again, we appreciate your feedback and look forward to favourable comments from your team.

Yours sincerely,

Adriana Biney (Corresponding author)