Author’s response to reviews

Title: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY AND ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES : A CASE CONTROL STUDY

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Reviewers

Thanks for your detail comments and rapid Response. We tried to address all comments Point by Point.

Reviewer #1

Area / topic

RESEARCH QUALITY EVALUATION

E V A L U A T E D B Y Academic Peer Reviewer

Response

Manuscript Title

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY AND ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Comment: “... Regarding the originality of the manuscript, the submitted paper shows remarkable resembles with papers already published. Sentences, numbers, grammatical
expressions are far too similar to consider this resemblance a coincidence. If these papers were used as models or comparative studies, a clear comment or statement must be made.

Thanks, we Accept the comment. we totally rephrased and reformulated the all paragraphs which showed great resemblance with the identified published papers. Please, Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text

Title page

Comment: “... Title: Extra space in title, before colon :

P. 13. L. 36 (and other times): "ComprehensiveSpecialized"Thanks, We Accept the comment. We correct the spacing problem.

Abstract

- P. 3 L. 23 "was conducted"
- P. 3 L. 24 "318 Cases" (without capital letter)
- P. 2 L. 24 "a" total of… (a missing)
- P. 2 L. 24: "Systematic sampling will be used to select the cases and controls". Should be in past tense.
- Several spaces are missing, for instance: "Result: out of 954 interviewed mothers, 389 (40.8%)"
- P. 2 L. 37: "to experience Low" (no capital letter is needed)
- P. 3 L. 7-8: "Ethiopian families"
- Domestic violence is the most far-reaching and prevalent. This sentence is grammatically incorrect: is the most far-reaching and prevalent phenomenon, health-related issue, etc.?
- "showed that, women exposed" no comma is needed.
- "Conclusion: Overall and physical violence during pregnancy was associated" the "and" should no be in the sentence. Thanks, we have made necessary corrections with regard to the scattered texts, grammatical problems and unnecessary capitalizations. Please, Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.
Method

Comment: "Ethical clearance was obtained from Institution Review Board (IRB) of Aksum University, College of Health Science. Official permission was obtained from Tigray regional health bureau for respective hospitals. In addition, the ethical considerations were done by taking into account the personal and revealing nature of the study, which required that voluntary, informed consent, using the consent form designed for this study, needed to be obtained from the participants. Prior to administering the questionnaires, the objectives of the study were clearly explained to the participants and verbal consent was obtained. Confidentiality and anonymity were ensured throughout the execution of the study.

We Accept the comment. We have made necessary corrections with regard to spacing and grammatical problem. Please, check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

P. 7 l. 4: "Multi variable analysis" should read "multi-variable analysis"

Thanks, we accept the comment. We rewrite and reformulate the words

Comment: In general terms, the use of lack of use of spaces, colon, capital letters, and position of the percentage symbol (%) must be checked. Thanks, We Accept the comment. *" we have made necessary corrections with regard to spacing problem and position of the percentage symbol"

Background

Comment: P. 5 l. 11 Human Rights should be spelled with capital letter in the initials

Thanks, We Accept the comment. we have made necessary corrections with initials capitalization

Comment: P. 5. L25 "phenomenon in Ethiopia both urban and rural families" should read "both IN urban and rural families. This is a crucial sentence.

Thanks, we accept the comment. we totally rewrite and reformulate the sentence. Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: P. 5 l. 14-15: "violence at home 'domestic violence' is considered". Grammatical mistake

Thanks, we have made necessary grammatical correction
Comment: "About 30-60%". This range is far too big to express an estimation
Thanks, We Accept the comment. it is an estimation from from another survey in Ethiopia

Result

Comment: out of 954 interviewed mothers, 389(40.8%) had experienced intimate partner
violence during their index pregnancy period. More than two third (68.6%) of cases had been exposed to intimate partner violence." These two sentences are not clear enough: which is the difference between both percentages? Clarify.

The first sentence describes over all proportion mothers with and without adverse birth outcome who were exposed to intimate partner violence during pregnancy.

The second sentence specifically describes the percentage of mothers with adverse birth outcome (preterm and low birth weight neonate) who have experienced intimate partner violence during index pregnancy.

P. 8. L. 10-12: "In this study, a total of 318 women's who had adverse birth outcome (cases) and 636 women's who had normal birth outcome (controls) were". Should read outcomes in plural.

Thanks, we totally rewrite and reformulate the sentence and made necessary grammatical correction. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: P. 8. L. 16-18. "Regarding to marital status, 276(86.8%) cases and 554(87.1%) of controls were married. Two hundred nine (65.7%) of cases and 367(57.7%)". Use numbers.

Thanks, We Accept the comment. *We rewrite and rephrase the paragraphs. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Overall the paper present descriptive results of the phenomenon. Although, several aspects could be developed further, such as a stratification of the population. Is the association equally present in different economic sectors, or religious groups? As this information was gathered in the instrument, it would be relevant to include in the analysis.

We have analyzed violence related variables, after controlling or making pan adjustment for potential confounders such as age of women, marital status, occupation, area of residency, religion and monthly income.

Comment: Index pregnancy period is not defined and should be, as it is a crucial concept.
Thanks, we have operationalized it. Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

- P. 5. L. 15: "pervasive form". That adjective just refers to a moral judgment of the practice of domestic violence. I suggest to avoid moral language, despite the fact it is in fact negative and deleterious for the wellbeing of women.

- P. 8. L. 56: "enter method" develop.

- The tables at the end of the paper show a vast range of measured variables. However, most of them are not analyzed in the paper. I suggest that only the analyzed data is included as appendixes. Furthermore, crucial socio-demographic variables might have insightful information of the analysis, such as monthly income.

When analyzing using logistic regression, method selection allows us to specify how independent variables are entered into the analysis. Using different methods, we can construct a variety of regression models from the same set of variables. In this study we select the enter method which is a procedure for variable selection in which all variables in a block are entered in a single step.

P. 8. 39-47: "More than half, 218(68.6%) cases and one fourth 171(26.9%) of controls reported experiencing some form of IPV during the index pregnancy, 57.5%(183) cases and 51(8.0%) of controls reported experiencing some act of physical violence during their index pregnancy and one third of cases 103(32.4%) and 26(4.1%) of controls reported being slapped by their intimate partner as the most common type of physical violence during pregnancy." Review grammar

Thanks, we totally rewrite and reformulate the sentence and made necessary grammatical correction. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Thank you for your comments

Reviewer #2

Introduction

Comment: “... The rationale of the study is not discussed.”

Thanks, We Accept the comment. We added a paragraph about the rationale of the study. Please, Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text
Comment: “... The question that the study seeks to answer is well stated; however, there is no clear discussion on why is this needed.

Method

Comment: “... there is no clear definition of the variables used in this study”

We Accept the comment. *” we have operationalized the important variable of interest”. Please, Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: “... Terms (e.g., IPV, domestic violence) are used so interchangeably and are not clear. It's hard to follow what the authors are trying to discuss. Either use the term intimate partner violence or domestic violence.

Thanks, we accept the comment. we have made necessary corrections with regard to inconsistent usage terms

Comment: Page 5, Line 29: Is that March 2016?

Thanks, We Accept the comment. *” we have made necessary correction and it is from March 2017- to January 2017 ”

Result

Comment: Page 6, Line 14-27: Too difficult to read and understand.

Thanks, we have rewrite and reformulate the descriptive section of result. Please, Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: Some of the findings are non-differentiable between cases and controls. Also, be consistent in reporting numbers and percentages, else it's hard to follow the numbers.

Comment: "5 variables reported in the findings are not discussed anywhere above that creates confusion. It should have been well stated under the method section.

Thanks, We Accept the comment. We have discussed all the variables in the method section including what do we mean by having adverse birth outcome. Please, Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.
Method selection allows us to specify how independent variables are entered into the analysis. Using different methods, we can construct a variety of regression models from the same set of variables. In this study, we select the enter method, which is a procedure for variable selection in which all variables in a block are entered in a single step.

Comment: Page 9, Line 22-23: Again, description on subcategories of the variables should have been explained above under the methods.

Thanks, We Accept the comment. We have added a paragraph about subcategories of intimate partner violence in the method section. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: What are the findings for the other two variables (sexual and psychological)?

Thanks, We Accept the comment. *We rewrite and reformulate the paragraphs. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: Table 1" Unit for monthly income?

We Accept the comment. *We have added Unit for monthly income” Birr” Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Comment: Table 2 “Consider including footnote for the definition of unintended pregnancy. Also, add abbreviations.

Thanks, we have added footnote for the definition of unintended pregnancy and abbreviations. Check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Discussion

Are the answers clear and convincing?

Not completely

Thanks, We Accept the comment. *We rewrite and reformulate each paragraph and try to make it clearer and more convincing

Table 5
There is a confusion over the multivariable findings. What outcome are you looking for? Is that for pre-term birth or low-birth weight or both? Thanks, for your comment. In this study the outcome interest was both pre-term birth or low-birth weight.

Cases were all women who had adverse birth outcomes (neonates born prematurely and with low birth weight) and Controls were all women who had a normal birth outcome (neonates born at term and with normal birth weight)

Interpretations of the findings are stated but is not satisfactory.

Thanks, we totally rewrite and reformulate Interpretations of the findings. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Strengths and limitations of the study not stated. Thanks, for your comment, we have added both strength and limitations of study. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

The implications of the findings not stated. What are the implications of this study?

Thanks for your comment, we have added a paragraph about the implications of the findings of this study. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Conclusion

What would be your future recommendations?

Thanks for your comment, we have added future recommendations based on our study findings to respective bodies. Please check on the document it is highlighted through red color on the main text.

Thank you for your comments