Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors Influencing Men's Involvement in Antenatal Care Services: A Cross-Sectional Study in a Low Resource Setting, Central Tanzania.

Authors:

Nyasiro Sophia Gibore (nyasiro2@gmail.com; nyasiro@hotmail.com)
Theodora Bali (t_bali@hotmail.com)
Stephen Matthew Kibusi (skibusi@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 09 Aug 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

We thank the reviewer for the valuable comments which have greatly improved our manuscript. The table below presents a point by point response to Reviewer’s comments.

Section: Plain English Summary

Comments: Why is this different than 966 stated in the abstract?

Responses: This was a typing error; the correct sample size is 966 as indicated in the abstract.

Remarks: See correction in pg. 2 line 63

Section: Introduction

Comments: “The concept of men’s involvement in ANC received an impetus following the programme of action created at the International Conference on Population and Development 1994 in Cairo which urged that “special efforts should be made to emphasize men’s shared responsibility and promote their active involvement in responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive behavior including family planning; prenatal, maternal and child health” (This seems to contradict your statement that above that 1994 ignored men)

Responses: The whole paragraph has been omitted to clear the contradiction

Remarks: Omitted line 96 to 100 in page 4
Comments: When? Where?

Responses: Indicated the year and setting as inquired

Remarks: Revisions in line 110 page

Comments: 3.4% of women (This seems small)

Responses: This is a proportion out of women who did not seek health care. Inserted the statement below for clarity. . . .

“3.4% of women who failed to access maternal health care services cited failure to obtain permission from their partners was the reason for not seeking health care”

Remarks: Revised the statement as indicated in pg 5 line 126-129

Section: Methods

Comments: agricultural and agropastoral (Are all of these cases unemployed? Could they not be gainfully employed by others)

Responses: Not employed referred to not having direct source of income. They were more likely to engage in subsistence farming to support family rather than earn a wage

Inserted the word “subsistence farming” to replace agricultural and agropastoral

Remarks: Inserted in pg 9 line 236

Section: Results

Comments: How can you have > 100%? More than those approached?

Responses: During data collection an additional sample of 125 respondents were added increasing the sample size from 841 to 966. Also, because of the nature of the topic more participants were very interested to participate in the study. In order to increase the validity of the study by controlling unforeseen confounders, allowance was made to increase the sample size.

The word “over 100%” replace by “100%”

Remarks: Revisions in pg. 11 line# 262

Comments: Men who reported to be living more than five kilometres from a health care facility had high level of involvement in ANC (64%), compared to their counterpart (52.6%) (This seems surprising, why is not addressed in the discussion?)

Responses: This variable showed relationship with the outcome variable using chi-square test but was not significantly associated with involvement during regression analysis. The relationship could
therefore been by chances and was not discussed later in the manuscript

Comments: Confounding variables: (What are these variables?)

Responses: The whole paragraph has been revised as follows…
“Variables which showed significance relationship with male involvement after chi-square analysis were added in a multivariate model to estimate their independent association. Thereby, controlling for confounding variables including occupation, ethnicity, religion, waiting time, access to information, number of children, distance to the health care facility and perceived attitude of care providers.”

Remarks: Inserted in line# 336 to 341 in pg 15

Comments: Similarly attitude of health care providers toward men who accompanied their partners at ANC was negatively associated with the level of men’s involvement in ANC (AOR=0.568, 95%CI=0.400-1.808) (Surprising, explore in discussion)

Responses: This has been addressed in discussion part, the paragraph has been added as it is seen in the manuscript

Remarks: Inserted in line# 407 to 416 in pg 18

Comments: Adjusted (Have you indicated what this is adjusted for?)

Responses: This was addressed earlier

Remarks: Revisions inserted in line# 336 to 341 in pg 15

Section: Discussion

Comments: Factors such as user friendly to men ANC services (Reword, this is awkward)

Responses: Revisited the statement to mean… “Factors such as male user friendly ANC services….”

Remarks: Pg 19 line 432

Comments: Is there no concern of social desirability?

Responses: We did not suspect social desirability to be an issues as culturally in the study setting, maternal health is considered as mainly a women issue and men are not that much expected to be involved