Author’s response to reviews

Title: Socio-cultural factors favoring home delivery in Afar Pastoral Community, Northeast Ethiopia: A Qualitative Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Respected Editor in chief
Reproductive health Journal

Subject: Submission of revised version of a manuscript

Title: Socio-cultural factors favoring home delivery in Afar Pastoral Community, Northeast Ethiopia: A Qualitative Study.(Manuscript ID: REPH-D-18-00363R2)

Dear Reviewers,

We thank you for again for lindens help to take time to carefully read our manuscript and for the valuable comments you have provided, which helped us in improving the revised paper that we are re-submitting for review.

A major revision in discussion and methods part.(Study design and population, and data collection). Please find with line by line our detailed response to each of the comments.

Best regards

Dr Mohammed Ahmed On behalf of all authors
You state that Ethiopia has the "highest" home delivery rates. Is this in sub Saharan Africa? This needs to be clarified. Sentences rephrased in a clear way in the revised version of the manuscript.

"Trust on TBA" should be changed to Trust IN TBAs as it is more grammatically correct. We thank you for correction. Accepted incorporated in the revised version of the manuscript.

"Overdependence" on religious faith should be rephrased- over dependence is the authors' interpretation. A different way of expressing your concept is needed. Thank you for the suggestion rephrased and incorporated in the revised version of the manuscript.

Comment accepted and Sentence rephrased

Lines 18-19 should be linked to your discussion in the next paragraph. It seems like what you are trying to say is that increasing institutional delivery is a context specific strategy to reduce maternal mortality.

Accepted and incorporated in the revised version of the manuscript

A line 33-46 seems to overlap with your description in the methods. I would recommend synthesizing it into one sentence and linking to the next paragraph that starts on line 48.

Paragraph (33-46), discussing about magnitude and distribution Ethiopian pastoralist’s population. Obtains the least benefits from the health sector improvements as much as the agrarian population in the country and second paragraph (line 48) about The reasons contributing to the low utilization of institutional delivery but both have deferent method parts in study area.

The last sentence in the introduction is not necessary and can be deleted

Accepted deleted accordingly

One big limitation is that male partners/husbands were not included. Please include a rationale for not including this Group. This should also be acknowledged in the limitations section in the discussion.

During data collection majority of husbands/ participated women were migrate out home in search for grazing due to drought circumstances.

Issues Acknowledged in the limitations section

Please list the "influential persons" in Study Design and Population

Tribal and religious leaders were considered as influential people in pastoral community.

We thank the reviewer for this observation and but term corrected in the revised version of the manuscript.

There is redundancy between description of FGD and KII- please condense it

Thank you to recommendation and sentences rephrased accordingly

Please reference Table 1 when you describe participant demographics

Thank you for comment, utilize in the revised version of the manuscript,

Section 1.2- I think this will be better as two sections rather than 1
It is difficult because Perceiving delivery as a normal process and trust on TBAs interfacing ideas and was similar in intention

12 Section 1.3- Remove "system" and call it Family Support  Accepted and incorporated in the revised version of the manuscript

13 Section 2- Maybe just title it "Traditional beliefs and practices"
   Accepted and incorporated in the revised version of the manuscript

14 Section 3- call it "Lack of Women's Decision Making Power"
   Accepted and incorporated in the revised version of the manuscript

15 The discussion section needs significant revision

Please start with a summary of the finding

In the second paragraph, you start with women's autonomy but the rest of the paragraph doesn't talk about it

I suggest structuring that each paragraph discusses one concept only

The section on strengths is very unclear- please re-write it

Thank you for comments and The discussion section significantly revised accordingly.