Author’s response to reviews

Title: Determinants of prenatal anemia in Ethiopia, 2016

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Author’s response to reviews:

Title: Determinants of anemia among pregnant women attending public health institutions: A cross-sectional study in West Ethiopia

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With regards!

From: Amare Tariku
To: Archives of Public Health, editorial board
Subject: Submitting a revised version of the manuscript:

Manuscript ID:AOPH-D-15-00036
Title: Determinants of anemia among pregnant women attending public health institutions: A cross-sectional study in West Ethiopia

POINT BY POINT RESPONSES

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the reviewers for their view and sharing constructive comments. The comments are very important which will further improve the quality of the manuscript. Based on the given comments the point–by–point responses are given below.

Reviewers comment Response to comments

1. The manuscript is of good quality. It can be improved by inserting relative references.
   Answer: Thank you dear reviewer. I corrected all the editorial problems in the entire manuscript. Also, the references are corrected.

Editors comment Response to comments

1. What is the participation of the pregnant women to the ANC. Prevalence of anemia may be under (or over) estimated if the ANC accessibility is a function of factors which are determinants of anemia. Please provide some information on possible selection bias
Answer: Thank you dear editor for your critical comment. I am agreed with your comment regarding committing selection bias. Given that the result of the study could not be generalizable to those mothers who did not have ANC follow-up. The sentence showing this limitation is described in the last paragraph of the discussion section page 11.

2. Design: it is unclear how the women were selected at the centers Answers: Dear we employed multistage sampling technique followed by systematic sampling technique to select pregnant mothers. The sampling fraction is also calculated. The details of the sampling procedure is described in the last paragraph of the page 4, method section.

3. Design: replace term “lottery method” by simple random sampling without replacement Answers: Thank you dear for your suggestion. Obviously, simple random sampling technique is a broader term which can be applied using a lottery method and table of random, therefore, I prefer to report both the terms to make it more informative.

4. Is the sampling design accounted for in the analysis? Answers: Since we have employed a multi-stage sampling technique, a design effect was considered to increase the sample thereby increasing the power of the study. But, hence we did not expect any variation in risk of anemia by difference in health institution i.e. health center and hospital, we did not run a stratified analysis.

4. In the abstract and text the term “major” and “moderate” public health problem are used. E.g. in the conclusion of the abstract you state “moderate”, in the conclusion of the text no rating of the level of problem is given. Are there criteria to define what is “moderate” or what is “major” public health problem. I would think when close to one third of the women have anemia (and 55% have moderate to severe anemia), this is not “moderate”. Answers: Thank you dear.

Dear in determining the severity in the burden of anemia, we used the WHO definition for the public health significance of anemia which matters the need of intervention. Given that, anemia
has no public health importance when the prevalence is less than 5%, while it will have mild, moderate and severe public health significance when the prevalence ranged from 5-19%, 20-39% and ≥40%, respectively. Accordingly, hence the prevalence of anemia is 31.8%, it is going to be a moderate public health concern in the study area. I prefer to report in this way rather than simply reporting the crude number.

5. When confidence intervals are given (see tables) the p-value does not have any added value and can be dropped  Answers: We have accepted the comment, accordingly the P-value is removed.

6. Please select colors with more contrast for figure 1 Answers: Thank you! we solved the problem with color contrast.

7. The text should be reviewed for the English language Answers: Thank you dear, we have made significant editorial changes in the document to improve the quality of the manuscript.

Thank you!!!!