Author’s response to reviews

Title: HIV Positive Sero-Status disclosure and its determinants among People Living with HIV /AIDS following ART Clinic in Jimma University Specialized Hospital, Southwest Ethiopia: A facility- based cross-sectional study

Authors:

Tamiru Tesfaye (tamirutesfaye00@gmail.com)
Jiregna Darega (jiregnadarega@yahoo.com)
Tefera Belachew (terabelachew@gmail.com)
Abebe Abera (abeef2011@gmail.com)

Version: 1 Date: 29 Jun 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Generally, in manuscript we used track change to incorporate or address the reviewers’ comments.

A Point by point response

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Comments 1: “The overall comment is on the English language used in the manuscript which will need extensive revision for this manuscript to present the intended message”.

Answers from authors: Ok. Thank you for your comments. Since English language is not our native language, we faced difficulties all the time on grammars, punctuations, etc. As much as possible we tried to use language experts or teachers that teaching at university level. If it your willingness, we need your help and/or journal editorial committee help on edition of the language. We totally accept the comment and we tried to use available chance we have to edit it. Thank you again for your concern!

SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

Comments 1: “The title should be revised and could read 'HIV sero-status disclosure among PLWHA attending ART clinic at Jimma University Hospital, Southeast Ethiopia’.

Answers from authors: we totally accepted the comment and improve the topic as tou recommended us. You can see the manuscript. Thank you!
Comments 2: The background section in the abstract has been lifted from the background of the manuscript; it might be useful if the authors write a succinct background section of the abstract without copying and pasting.

Answers from authors: Ok. We addressed your concern and you can observe it in the manuscript. Thank you!

Comments 3: The background of the manuscript has largely focused on the epidemiological aspect of HIV infection globally and regionally. The authors have not highlighted the subject of this study which is disclosure of HIV sero-status in Ethiopia.

Answers from authors: Thank you. We accepted your comment and tried to incorporate some sentences that can show the disclosure status in developing compared to developed countries and what it look like in Ethiopia. But to write everything here make the manuscript balky and you can get the previous disclosure of sero – status in Ethiopia in discussion parts. As you can observe from many articles, much information is not present in background. The discussion parts play the role of showing the difference in findings between other study done before and this study.

Comments 4: The systematic randomly sampling should be clearly described. The statement 'data were collected by the 18th PLWHA..' is no clear, does it imply these PLWHA were also research assistants, or is this meant to show which participants were recruited? If the latter is the case what is the 18th meant to be, is it the 18th person on the list of that particular day attendance or is it every 18th person recruited into ART program? On average how many participants were recruited/ day?

Answers from authors: Thank you. We addressed this concern also to make it clear as much as possible. We think, now everybody can understand the procedures we followed to recruit the study participants. You can observe from the manuscript.

Comments 5: What variables were recorded using the questionnaires, i.e describe the socio demographic, community factors variables e.t.c., it would be useful to describe some of the questions in the methods.

Answers from authors: Ok. We accepted the comments and tried to add more information about variables that asked under each component of the questionnaires. You can read it from the manuscript.
Comments 6: Five BSc Nurses collected data from participants, what was the role of the nurse supervisor, and was this supervisor different from the five nurses who collected data? Who checked for data completeness?

Answers from authors: The nurse supervisor is the nurse who led the team of those care providers that work in ART clinic. Since there were many patient flows, there were six nurse team members that provide the care. Five of them recruited as data collectors and one as supervisor. This supervisor controlled and overseen the overall all data collection procedures, provided necessary technical helps for data collectors and finally checked the completeness of data collected by being with investigators. Therefore, both investigators and supervisors were checked questionnaire for its completeness before taking it from data collectors.

Comments 7: In which language were the questionnaires prepared?

Answers from authors: Ok. The questionnaires were prepared by English originally. But to collect the data, it was translated to Afan Oromo and Amharic that both language were the native language of study participants.

Comments 8: Was the pre-testing of questionnaires done on HIV infected patients or on general population?, was it conducted in the similar setting?

Answers from authors: Ok. The pretest was done in Shanan Gibe Hospital that was present in Jimma Town 5Km far from the study hospital (Jimma University Specialized hospital). It was done on HIV patients that taking HAART drugs from Shanan Gibe Hospital ART clinic. This information was present in manuscript in clear manner as we think and you can get it. Thank you for your concern.

Comments 9: In the analysis why did authors choose only variables with p<0.025 in the univariate model to include in the multivariate model?

Answers from authors: Ok. Thank you for your comments. We accepted your comment totally. We modified and incorporated the points that we have done but not written first in manuscript. As some references recommended, we can transfer or include the variables in multivariate model depending on the following things; P value ≤ 0.3 in univariate model, the variables that shown association in other similar study even though it have high p value in this research and the variable that we suspect it may have association with the variables of the study. Therefore, by using these three criteria, we included the variables in multivariate model.
Comments 10: Language used in this section as it is the case in other sections has major problems particularly in grammar.

Answers from authors: Ok. As we have said above under general comments, we tried to improve it. Still we give chance for those can help us. We used language experts as much as we can. Thank you. We accept the problems as it present.

Comments 11: In line 162, in the results section, authors have reported 'Compared to last year, 273 (77.8%) of them were better now than last year regarding to their health status progress.'

Answers from authors: Ok. We tried to make it more clear and understandable. You can get the improved in manuscript.

Comments 12: It was not stated in the methods that quality of life was assessed in this study and which tool was utilised for that; similarly it is not clear how stigma was measure in this study.

Answers from authors: We have another manuscript extracted from these research that done on quality of life of HIV patients. It is under review now. Therefore, it is not necessary to talk about it here. Much detail information was present in that manuscript. Concerning stigma, we assessed perceived stigma. What that patient feels about social relation he/she have in community. If they feel, there were isolations in participation of different activities and social interactions.

Comments 13: The authors have only mentioned several reports in this subject and there is no clear link with what this study reported.

Answers from authors: Thank you. We edited it as your recommendations. You can observe it from the manuscript.

Comments 14: The limitation for this study are not clearly written, the authors should highlight how their chosen study could have affected the findings of their study. The advice given in this section on how to conduct similar study does not have clear link with section in which it is placed.

Answers from authors: Ok. We accepted the comment. We added the issue you raised and you can get the incorporated ideas in manuscript.

Overall, thank you for such short time kindly responses and best comments!