Author’s response to reviews

Title: Determinants of appropriate complementary feeding practice among mothers having children 6-23 months of age in rural Damot Sore district, Southern Ethiopia; a community based cross sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:
Response for reviewer’s and Editor’s inquiries

Q1: What is the definition of appropriate complementary feeding?
Answer: It was indicated at the methodology section

Q2: How existing indicators were combined?
Answer: Microsoft Excel was used to compute the composite indicators of appropriate complementary feeding. We used the standard IYCF questionnaire which recommends the open ended questions. Timely initiation was categorize as 1; if the mothers responds that she started feeding her child CF at six months of age and 0; if she started before or after six months. Minimum acceptable diet was calculated from two other indicators (minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency), as indicated in operational definition. We declared complementary feeding as appropriate; if the mother responds correctly to all four indicators, and inappropriate; if at least one indicator was not correctly fulfilled. As minimum acceptable diet was composed of two indicators (MDD and MMF), we can say that ACF was indicator composed of two indicators (TICF and MAD). However for the sake of clarity we elaborated as we used four indicators. We think as they are the same sayings.
Q3: How Gots were selected and how many gots were there in each kebele?

Answer: In the study area every kebele contains three gots each. We only allocated sample for gots proportionally; meaning that all available gots were for better representativeness.

Q4: How study subjects were selected?

Answer: Study subjects were selected from a got until the required proportional sample attained.

Q5: Definition of timely initiation of complementary feeding for infant and young child feeding.

Answer: The definition we indicated was operational definition for small survey. The denominators should be the same to combine those four indicators.

Q6. The issue of figure and table titles: it was indicated in legend section based on BMC manuscript standard.

Q7. “Responsive attitude” towards complementary feeding

Answer: Seven positive statements about appropriate technique of complementary feeding (how the child should be fed) was provided to the mother and if she answers four and more correctly, then she has responsive attitude towards CF otherwise non responsive attitude.

The statements were

A/ directly and assist older children when they feed themselves,

B/ being sensitive to hunger C/ satiety cue, D/ Feed slowly and patiently,

E/ encourage children to eat, but do not force them,
F/ If children refuse many foods, experiment with different food combinations, tastes, textures, and methods of encouragement, Minimize distractions during meals if the child loses interest easily, G/ during feeding with eye to eye contact

However, for the sake of clarity the authors agreed to omit from the final manuscript.

Q8. Some acronyms were not spelt at footnote.

Answer: It not spelt on foot not because it already spelt when it comes in narrative section just above the table. However, in the recent manuscript it was spelt at footnote

Q9: table and figure title and pagination issues

Corrected