Author’s response to reviews

Title: PREVALENCE OF GOITER AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CHOLE DISTRICT, ARSI ZONE, ETHIOPIA: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

Authors:
Takele Adilo (admetakele@gmail.com)
Abera Bekele (aberabekele@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

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To: Editorial Office
Journal of BMC Nutrition

Subject: Responses given to the Comments and Queries of the Editorial Office and Reviewer 3 on the Manuscript entitled” PREVALENCE OF GOITER AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CHOLE DISTRICT, ARSI ZONE, ETHIOPIA: NUTN-D-18-00032

Dear Editorial Office Manager and Reviewer of BMC Nutrition Journal

First of all, we both authors would like to thank you all for your priceless time, concern and critical revisions and comments given on our manuscript or research article to be published.

In addition, we are pleased to say that the given comments and queries are well taken and very helpful for the improvement of the manuscript. Thus, we hope that all the given comments and
queries are fully addressed and now our manuscript is matured to be finalized and published in your reputable journal.

Accordingly, the queries and comments from the editorial office and reviewer 3 with their respective responses and/or revisions we did are summarized in the following two tables, respectively.

Table 1: Summary of the responses to the Technical Comments and queries from the editorial office and the first reviewer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Comments /Queries</th>
<th>Revision or changes Made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title Omit Design Deleted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randomly selected “Repeated”</td>
<td>One deleted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age 9.87 “years “ added</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Terms; Use MeSH Terms</td>
<td>We tried to modify as much as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 81 “ranged ” deleted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines 105-106 Revise the sentence</td>
<td>Thank you, we did so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines 117-121 Better clubbed with line no.91-96</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 122 has had</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines 130-132 Repetition of line no.119-121 Revised accordingly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 151 What type of random selection?</td>
<td>Revised as systematic random sampling technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 165-170 Please clarify the sampling technique clearly step by step</td>
<td>Done accordingly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 177 How were the socio-demographic characteristics chosen</td>
<td>Based on literature review/Theoretical background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 210-11 Repetition of line no 178-180</td>
<td>Revised accordingly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Line 234  5.3%  Revised as 5.4%

Line 235  Utility of religion  We think it is useful because in Ethiopian context there are conditions where by some of the food items are not eaten due to religion related reasons

Table 1  Some comments were given  Revised accordingly

Table 2  The utilities of “No” categories for each variable were asked  We hope they are useful to compare them with “Yes” categories

Figure 1  Lease omit  Done

Lines 309-311 Repetition of introduction  Revised accordingly

Line 405  In ability  Corrected as “inability”

Table 2: Summary of the Responses to the Queries of Reviewer 3

Section of the Manuscript  Comments given and/or queries to be responded  Changes made in the revised manuscript/or responses from author

I. Abstract

Line 38

Line 44

Not necessary

--------------------------------------  Omitted

Revised as From the 422 study participants

Lines 46-50  Separate in to two more sentences  Thank you, we did it now.

Line 48  Revised as:----family in a single room…

Line 52  Reword “preventive” Corrected as “Protective”
II. Introduction

Line 68 Like Replaced by “such as “
Lines 67-70 Break in to two sentences Done
Line 71 Replace “in food and drinks” by intake Done
Line 79 Modified as Of the world is still estimated
Lines 81-82 When was prevalence of 4.7% to 28% in Africa
Revised as – a study conducted in 2012
Line 83 School age children
The phrase “School –aged children “ corrected as commented

Lines 98,103,105,113,117,118,119,122,,line 124 and 128 All the comments are well taken
Corrections/revisions are done and also some vague concepts like ease of access are omitted accordingly

III. Methods:
Lines 143-144 Delete "Chole district…Arsi zone".
Done
Lines 144-149 Are these details necessary?
We hoped that for someone who is interested to know about the socio economic status of the community living in the study area the given details might help
Line 152
Delete "Ethiopia" Done
Line 178
Delete "food"
What do the authors mean by "eating practices in their respective households"? The types of food that the participant child’s family usually eat /the type of diets the child is likely to get
Line 192-193 Double-check this sentence, not clear
Thank you, some revision are made for better sense and clarity

Lines 209-212
- Seems to be repetition of lines 178-179 Revised accordingly

Lines 219 to 224 Break down into two or more sentences Revised

Results

Lines 231-232 From the total 422 study participants, 407 (96.6%) completed the questionnaire. Revised accordingly

Line 233 Replace "SD" by the plus or minus sign Done

Table 1 Delete plus sign and also have a space before parentheses Done

Line 240 Consider rewording this title Revised

Line 245 …milk at least once during the previous week Revised accordingly

Table 2 Does milk consumption include dairy products?
- How can the test distinguish between the 0ppm and <15 ppm; correct PPM by “ppm” It is just milk not about related products of milk
- By observing the differences in the color change while using the test kit for iodine content in the house hold salt

PPM revised as ppm

Figure 1 Improve the graph?

It is removed totally as per the comment from Journal Editorial Manger

Lines 269-273 Bivariate results are not often reported in the manuscript; they can be thatched
We believed that it is important just to give immediate information to someone who needs to know about the variables with significant and non significant findings unlike the multivariate table that includes only those variables with statistical or theoretical significant However, as commented it can be also annexed as per the journal guide line as required
Table 4  Differentiate variables and categories by having headings and indenting. Thank you, it is done.

Line 285  Replace "during" by "in"  Done

Table 4  Please report significance by using the conventional "*" or "**" or "***" next to the AOR.

On the "age" variable, why the reference category is not the same for COR and AOR?

Double check format of table.

Well–taken and revised accordingly.

IV. Discussion

Lines 309-311,314,318-320,322,328-329  Though minor, very helpful comments were given. Well-taken and necessary corrections are made.

Line 334-339  Reference 33 but now number 32 is not appropriate for this statement.

We think that the given reference is pertinent. Because similar to that of our finding the proportion of goiter among male was somewhat greater than female group. However, the difference was not statistically significant.

Line 344-349,352,353,355,358-360,362-364  Some helpful comments are given. Revised as per the given comments as can be seen from track changes in the manuscript.

Line 366  Did the authors collect data on "access to milk"? Why was not it included in data analysis?

Access to milk refers to the study participant child’s probability of getting or consuming milk at least once in a week; not other milk products/diary.

Line 374  Delete “in line with”  Done.

Line 383  What does the authors mean by "insufficient iodization of salt"?

Salt was not properly iodized from the beginning?

The monitoring of iodine content in salt mentioned in the conclusion should be discussed here.

We mean using the salt without expected or adequate iodine content because of lack of awareness or else in efficient salt iodization program in the area and/or nationally.
-Comments well taken and revision was made accordingly

Line 388 Replace ‘to the contrary” by additionally Done

Lines 388-389 What foods rich in iodine did the authors test? Why was it not reported in the dietary factors associated with goiter?

Lines 396-397

Explain further why would that be a problem? Necessary revisions are done

Conclusion The conclusion section should be just a summary of findings and discussion

Thank you and we revised it accordingly

Line 405

Was ability to access milk tested in the analysis?

This is just to say what was analyzed as one of the important variables “ consuming milk at least once in previous week “.

Lines 407-408

This was not discussed in the discussion

Consuming milk at least once in previous week was discussed as one of important predictor

Lines 411-414

This is a good argument, it may be better to discuss this further in the discussion section. Thank you, we tried to revise accordingly

With all the Best and Healthy Wishes!

Takele Menna, MPH, PhD,

Corresponding author,

E-mail: admetakele@gmail.com; Cell Phone ;+251-911-134934