Author’s response to reviews

Title: Iodine level concentration, coverage of adequately iodized salt consumption and factors affecting proper iodized salt utilization among households in North Ethiopia: A Community Based Cross sectional Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Sir/ Madam, first I would like to thank for your constructive comments during the review of the article and here I kindly listed my responses to each comment one by one for each reviewer.

The comments From Lena Hulthén (reviewer 1) was addressed as follows

→ As the title was long, it was changed and condensed the number of words to find focus

→ In the Abstract section in the Introduction: it was corrected, as with concentration of 15 Parts Per Million (PPM) to 80 PPM of iodine at household level were low in Tigray region and other regions of Ethiopia. The studies showed low coverage of adequately iodized salt in Tigray region and other regions of Ethiopia. The reason why this study was conducted at household level is that, previous studies were done only on the coverage of the iodized salt by using rapid test techniques to detect iodine in the salt. However, this study is unique from previous studies 1. The iodine test was done using the quantitative golden standard of iodometric technique 2. The outcome variable has combined both the acceptable concentration of iodine in the salt and recommended practice to store, transport and use of iodized salt at the household level.
In the result section of the abstract, the reason why I start with the word about to start with words instead of the figure number. I used Frequency and percentage to be more informative to the readers of the article. Because writing frequency alone might not be sufficient to inform readers.

For the question “why you determine iodine concentration of salt, but what is meant by assess iodize salt coverage?” The answer is that, I need to determine the iodine concentration not only to check the normal range of iodine in salt for the iodized salts but also to show the level of concentration whether it is below the recommended standard or above the recommended standard. Based on the finding the concentration was categorized into 4 i.e. 0 PPM, 1-<15 PPM, 15-80 PPM and above 80 PPM. Iodized salt coverage has considered in terms of the response “Yes, I use iodized salt” and it was compared to the acceptable iodine concentration in the salt of the households in line with the operational definition of iodized salt.

In the background section of the study prevalence of IDD in different part of Ethiopia was added and the old reference was replaced by other reference

The iodine test was not done in separate of the samples from the top, middle and bottom of the pack, rather sample was taken from these all and mixed in one to test iodine in the salt.

It has tried to rearrange the discussion part of the study, though there are limited references on factors affecting to proper iodized salt utilization (with recommended concentration + proper practice)

References was updated and the manuscript length has shortened

The comments from reviewer 1 was addressed as follows

Design of the study was rearranged
→ The execution of the analysis was also arranged

→ Proof reading was done to correct a typographic error and correct grammar

→ The methodology sections were minimized and made a continuous narrative for a smooth flow

→ All declarations components was included