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Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_121387
Title of the Manuscript:	Correlates of latrine utilization among rural community in Marakwet East, Elgeyo Marakwet County
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript "Correlates of latrine utilization among rural community in Marakwet East, Elgeyo Marakwet County" is an important contribution to the understanding of public health issues related to sanitation in rural areas. It highlights key factors that influence the use of latrines, such as household size, education level, and the type of latrine available. These insights are crucial for designing effective public health interventions aimed at reducing open defecation and improving sanitation facilities. The study's comprehensive approach, using quantitative methods, adds to the robustness of its findings. Overall, this research provides valuable data that can help guide policy and community initiatives to enhance sanitation practices and public health outcomes.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title "Correlates of latrine utilization among rural community in Marakwet East, Elgeyo Marakwet County" is generally clear and descriptive, indicating the focus on factors related to latrine use in a specific rural area. However, it could be made more concise and impactful by emphasizing the key aspects of the study, such as the geographic location and the main theme of sanitation behavior.</p> <p>An alternative title could be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Factors Influencing Latrine Utilization in Rural Communities of Marakwet East, Elgeyo-Marakwet County, Kenya. 2. Determinants of Latrine Utilization in Rural Marakwet East, Kenya: A Study on Sanitation Practices. <p>This title maintains the original focus while being slightly more concise and highlighting the key elements of the study.</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract is generally comprehensive, but there are areas that could be improved for clarity, completeness, and coherence. Here are some specific comments and suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aims: The aim of the study is clear, but the sentence could be rephrased for better readability. Consider explicitly stating that the study aims to identify factors influencing latrine utilization. 2. Study Design: This section is concise and provides the study design and methods used. However, it would be helpful to include the timeframe of the study to give readers a better context. 3. Place and Duration of Study: The sample size and location are specified, but this could be integrated into the Study Design section for better flow. Adding the study duration here would also enhance the context. 4. Methodology: The methodology is detailed and clear. However, providing a brief rationale for choosing purposive and random sampling techniques would add depth to this section. 5. Results: The results are well-presented with specific statistics. However, the data could be simplified to highlight the most significant findings. Including too many specific numbers might overwhelm the reader and be better suited for the main paper. 6. Conclusion: The conclusion is concise but could benefit from a brief mention of the practical implications of the findings or specific recommendations for action. 	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript are generally appropriate.</p>	

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<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>1. INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The introduction of the article is comprehensive, clear, and focused, effectively aligning with the title of the study. However, there are a few areas where the introduction could be improved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conciseness: The introduction is quite lengthy and could benefit from being more concise. Reducing repetitive points and focusing on the most critical data and arguments would enhance readability.2. Clarity in Specific Points: Some sentences are complex and could be simplified for better understanding. For example, breaking down the statistics and findings into more digestible parts could help.3. Link to Study Objectives: While the introduction effectively sets the stage, a more explicit connection to the study's specific objectives at the end would provide a clearer transition. <p>2. METHODOLOGY</p> <p>2.1 Study Design The study design is clearly stated as a cross-sectional study with a quantitative approach, which is appropriate for collecting data from a large population using structured questionnaires. The reference to the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) model is noted, but it might be beneficial to briefly explain why this model is relevant to the study.</p> <p>2.2 Study Area The description of the study area is thorough, providing geographical, demographic, and climatic details of Elgeyo Marakwet County. This helps in understanding the context of the study and why the location was chosen. However, mentioning specific challenges related to sanitation in the region could strengthen the justification for the study.</p> <p>2.3 Justification of Study Area The justification is well-supported with data on population, household statistics, and diarrheal disease prevalence.</p> <p>2.4 Target Population The target population is clearly defined as households in Marakwet East, with household heads or designated representatives over 18 years as respondents. This is appropriate for obtaining reliable information on sanitation practices.</p> <p>2.5 Sampling Procedures and Techniques The sampling procedure is detailed, using Andrew Fisher's exact formula to determine the sample size and adding a buffer for non-response. The inclusion of a table to show the sample size distribution by ward and village adds clarity. However, it would be helpful to explain how the villages were selected and how the sample size was distributed across them. The section would benefit from including explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study participants.</p> <p>2.6 Data Collection Instruments The use of a structured questionnaire to collect quantitative data is appropriate. The mention of translating the questionnaire into the local language ensures that respondents can understand and answer the questions accurately. Describing the specific parts of the questionnaire relevant to the study objectives is helpful.</p> <p>2.7 Observational Methods The observational methods are adequately described, including the use of a five-point Likert scale and an observational checklist based on research questions. Provide a brief explanation of what was included in the observational checklist to give readers a better understanding of what was observed. However, the section would benefit from including explicit inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study participants.</p> <p>2.8 Pilot Study and Pretesting The pilot study and pretesting process are well-explained, ensuring the reliability and validity of the research instruments.</p> <p>2.9 Test for Validity and Reliability The steps taken to ensure the validity and reliability of the research instruments are comprehensive.</p> <p>3. RESULTS</p> <p>3.1 Sample Size and Response Rate The sampling and socio-demographic sections are well-articulated and provide a clear overview</p>	
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	<p>of the study's participant characteristics. The sample size determination and adjustment for non-responses is methodologically sound, and the reported 100% response rate is commendable. However, the mention that some questionnaires had unanswered items indicates that while all questionnaires were administered, there were issues with completeness that could affect the data quality.</p> <p>3.2 Socio Demographic Characteristics of Respondents The socio-demographic characteristics section is detailed, covering key aspects such as income levels, gender, occupation, age, marital status, and education. The discrepancy in the total number of respondents reported in the summary versus the tables raises concerns about data consistency and accuracy. It's crucial for the total number of respondents to match across all sections of the report to maintain credibility and ensure accurate analysis. In this case, the total should align with the reported 423 respondents. Kindly check the religion section, Toilet Accessibility and Usage (Household member utilization of Toilets and state whether they owned (were accessible) to toilets) section. For Model Summary, incomplete table. Kindly include significant value each variable (1-8).</p> <p>4. Results Overall, the discussion effectively integrates the study's results with broader research, providing a nuanced understanding of the factors influencing latrine utilization. It suggests that improving latrine use requires addressing multiple factors, including economic constraints, household dynamics, education, and latrine maintenance.</p> <p>5. Conclusion Overall, the conclusion effectively ties together the study's findings and offers actionable recommendations that could inform future sanitation initiatives. It highlights the need for comprehensive strategies that incorporate both technical and socio-cultural elements to enhance latrine utilization and improve public health outcomes.</p> <p>6. Numbering of ethical approval and references need to rearrange (6 and 7 instead of 7 and 8).</p> <p>7. Definition and abbreviations The definitions and abbreviations provided are clear and useful for understanding key terms related to the study. However, if they are not part of the standard article format, it's advisable to integrate these explanations into the main text or an appendix to maintain the flow and consistency of the article.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>The references provided in the manuscript are mostly sufficient and relevant</p>	
<p><u>Minor</u> REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article seem generally suitable for scholarly communication.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>The article provides a thorough analysis of latrine utilization in Marakwet East, integrating socio-demographic, cultural, and design factors effectively. The use of robust methodologies and the detailed exploration of various influences on latrine use offer valuable insights for improving sanitation practices in rural communities. While minor corrections are needed for clarity and consistency, the study's findings and recommendations are significant and contribute meaningfully to the field. With these adjustments, the article is well-prepared for publication.</p>	

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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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