

Dear Prof. Dr. Kovy Arteaga-Livias,

Thank you for sharing the reviewers' helpful comments and suggestions. We have responded to all comments and made necessary changes in the revised version of the manuscript. We have responded each comment separately below. I have attached both color-marked and track-change versions of the revised manuscript for your consideration.

Editor's comment: Attached to this message, I send you the corrections that the reviewers have made to your work, so we hope you will take them into account and send us your corrected manuscript, with the changes marked in another color to facilitate the work of the reviewers, along with a letter mentioning the changes made.

Author Contribution Statement

Microbes, Infection and Chemotherapy requires that all authors take public responsibility for the content of the work submitted for review. The contributions of all authors must be described in the following manner:

The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows: study conception and design: X. Author, Y. Author; data collection: Y. Author; analysis and interpretation of results: X. Author, Y. Author. Z. Author; draft manuscript preparation: Y. Author. Z. Author. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript. All authors agreed to be responsible for all aspects of the work to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the published manuscript.

***Response:** Thanks for your suggestion and sharing reviewer's comments. All comments are very useful for the improvement of the manuscript and we have revised the whole manuscript considering your/reviewer's comments and suggestions. We added author contribution matrix in the revised manuscript.*

Reviewer's comments:

Comment: Rewrite abstract part clearly and concisely. Please focus the abstract on your study and your results.

***Response:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have revised abstract by adding relevant information and deleting unnecessary texts.*

Comment: Add recent report of WHO.

***Response:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have added latest information in the revised manuscript.*

Comment: Gap required

***Response:** We have corrected accordingly.*

Comment: Already discussed ,,???
Remove, elaborate it in study design.

***Response:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have revised the section by removing repeated information.*

Comment: Add map of the study area

Response: *Thanks for your suggestions. Very useful. We have included a map in the revised manuscript.*

Comment: Take a conclusion part to separated heading

Response: *We have added another heading for Conclusions in the revised manuscript.*

Comment: The study design contains a potential for the above selection bias, but the researchers didn't address this potential in the study.

Response: *Thanks for sharing your comment. We have addressed it in the study limitation section (end of the discussion section).*