Reviewer’s report

Title: Elderly care in activities of daily living in rural Vietnam: Need and its socioeconomic determinants

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Reviewer: Iris Chi

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This manuscript aims to assess the daily care needs and their socio-economic determinants among older Vietnamese in a rural setting. The advantage of this study lies on using a representative sample and well-established instruments. Although this study only provides basic descriptive information, there is little knowledge about the care needs among older Vietnamese residing in rural area. Therefore, this manuscript can fill the research gap. However, authors are advised to revise their manuscript in the following areas in order to strengthen the contribution of their study.

1. There are quite a few publications on the ADL and IADL care needs in the rural areas around the world. Although there might be differences in methods used, it is still worthwhile for authors to review those studies and make some comparisons. This will help readers better understand the situation in Vietnam.

2. Again, there are many publications on the socioeconomic determinants of ADL index. Authors should build on others’ studies to formulate their conceptual framework and guide the multivariate analyses.

3. Some of the variables included in the study need more background information. For instance, living in the lowlands or highlands; listening to radio and watching TV as intellectual ADL needs; short-term and long-term economic conditions.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.