Author's response to reviews

Title: Demographic, socio-economic, and cultural factors for fertility differentials in Nepal

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to re-submit a revised manuscript. Please find attached the article entitled "Demographic, socio-economic and cultural factors for fertility differentials in Nepal"

Associate Editor's comment and the two reviewer’s comments have been considered and incorporated in the text accordingly (See below). The text is edited by a native English speaking editor.

I trust that the revisions meet the requirements for publication.

Below please find my responses to the editorial request, associate editor's and two reviewers’ comments.

Yours sincerely,
Ramesh

Response to the Editorial request

1. Now the revised version of the manuscript is proof-read by a native English speaker (professional editor)

2. Comments given by the associate editor and two reviewers are addressed

3. This revised manuscript is conforms to the journal style

Response to the Associate Editors' comments

Thank you very much for your very useful comments.

1. There is no information about migration in DHS.
2. I have added couples of paragraphs and relevant reference in background section and other sections too
Response to the comment by Reviewer 1: Bibha Simkhada

Thank you very much for your very useful comments. The following are the responses of each comment.

1. Thanks
2. I have added some hypothesis. There is not information about migration in DHS. So I couldn’t explore the association between migration and fertility.
3. Thanks
4. I have added 4 more paragraphs and added enough references in background section.
5. Thanks
6. I have added limitation in the discussion section.
7. Thanks
8. Thanks
9. Thanks

Major compulsory revision

I have changed the category and corrected accordingly. The revised version followed BMC pregnancy and child birth guideline for referencing.

Response to the comment by Reviewer 2: Gagan Gurung

Thank you very much for the valuable comments. The following are the responses of each comment.

Major compulsory revision

1. I have changed the title according to your suggestion
2. I have added couple of paragraph in background section and added more relevant literatures
3. Now I have used two dependent (one is CEB by all women and the other is CEB for age 40-49) variables as measure of fertility. I have added some reference in methodology section too. I examined multicolinearity among the variables. All those variable included in bivariate analysis were not highly correlated (r>0.6) so I kept all these variable in the multivariate linear regression model. Age is one of the important variables in demography and many researchers have used as independent variable so I have also kept it in the model. However, I haven’t focused its result in the result section. Now I have clearly mentioned data sources and statistical test used.
4. I have added how I categorized the independent variables. I have changed religion category into three categories: Hindu, Muslim and other. Similarly, I have re-categorized women's occupation. Now it is 'not working', 'agricultural sector' and 'non-agricultural sectors'.
5. I have rewritten the result section. Now p value is also given while comparing the CEB.
6. I have changed accordingly.
7. I have corrected accordingly.
8. I have changed and added more literature to support the interpretation of the result.
9. I have added limitation in the discussion section.
10. Now I have changed conclusion section more focused on findings.
11. Here, the number of married women is 8644. So I kept the number 8,644 in each table.
12. I have rewritten and this manuscript is edited by professional editor of native speaking country.

**Minor Essentials revisions**

1. Now I have changed the reference style. I made it according to the journal style.
2. I followed the BMC reference style.

**Discretionary revision**

1. I added two variables. Perceived ideal number of children and ecological zones and re-categorized for some of the other variables
2. I have divided write up in smaller in methodology section and result section.

Once again, thank you very much for your valuable comments.

Regards,

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