Reviewer's report

Title: Association between pregnancy intention and optimal breastfeeding practices in the Philippines: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 3 February 2011

Reviewer: Tinuade Ogunlesi

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Major Compulsory Revisions

METHOD:
1. Seventeen households were selected from each remuneration area. Did the authors survey every child aged 6 to 36 months in each of the selected households? For instance, where a single mother has two children aged 6 months and 24 months, how did the authors handle the data for that family?
2. Were there specific reasons for extending the age of inclusion to 36 months? Risk of recall bias is expectedly remarkable at such times!
3. Breastfeeding is conventionally described as prolonged when it is done beyond 12 months. Why did the authors choose 6 months as the cut-off point for adequate duration of breastfeeding in the present study?
4. Why did the authors exclude exclusivity of breastfeeding from this study? Generally, breastfeeding practices are described in terms of time of initiation, exclusivity for up to 6 months and duration of breastfeeding.
5. Utilization of pre-natal care services and delivery services provides access to health information concerning breastfeeding. Therefore, irrespective of whether pregnancy was wanted, unwanted or ill-timed, counseling received during prenatal care and delivery might influence breastfeeding practices. Surprisingly, details of prenatal care and delivery were not included in the statistical models used in this study.
6. Why did the authors adopt varying p values to define statistical significance under varying situations? P values less than 0.05 are generally used to accept or reject the Null hypotheses.
7. In Table 1, I expected to find a comparison of the mean ages of mothers in the two groups (early and late initiation of breastfeeding as well as short and prolonged breastfeeding) using at least the Student’s t-test.

DISCUSSION
1. Paragraph 2: What can be done to improve the motivation of pregnant women about appropriate breastfeeding.
2. Paragraph 4 Lines 15 and 16: is it common practice in the Philippines for physicians to prescribe infant formula routinely.
3. Why were urban dwellers more likely to initiate breastfeeding late and have short duration of breastfeeding compared to rural dwellers?

4. Why were highly educated women more likely to initiate breastfeeding late and have shorter duration of breastfeeding compared to less highly educated women?

REFERENCES
Numbering was inappropriately done so it is difficult to follow citations in the text. Citation of references was incorrectly done on the list of references eg Fjeld et al, Arora et al, Pernia et al, bankole A et al.

Minor Essential Revisions

INTRODUCTION
1. Paragraph 2 Line 2: The authors alluded to “………Three studies…..” without providing appropriate references.

METHODS
2. Authors claimed the response rate was 99% but no supportive figures were provided eg how many out of how many?

3. Method of assessing socio-economic status was not referenced hence reproducibility may be difficult. How was scoring done?

RESULTS
1. How many babies were products of “wanted”, “unwanted” or “ill-timed”?

2. Paragraph 2 Lines 2 and 3: Authors referred to a comparison of “urban with urban” dwellers. This is wrong and should be corrected.

3. Paragraph 3 Line 1: How did the authors arrive at the conclusion that “parity and socioeconomic status were probable effect measure modifiers”?

4. No data were presented to support Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

5. In Table 1, the total number of respondents in each category (late initiation of breastfeeding and short duration of breastfeeding) should be clearly stated on the respective column.

DISCUSSION
This section should start with a summary of the major findings in the study.

Discretionary Revisions

METHOD
Crude analysis should be more specifically replaced with either “Univariate” or “Bivariate” analysis?

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.