Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants Of Cessation Of Exclusive Breast Feeding In Ankesha Guagusa Woreda, Awi Zone, Northwest Ethiopia

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Reviewer: rahel nardos

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Minor Essential Revisions

First of this is a very relevant topic and I commend the authors for their extensive efforts to look into a major public health question.

1. In general, there are quiet a few grammatical errors through out the document and some very long and difficult to follow sentences. For example, 3rd paragraph in Background. I recommend the authors have this manuscript reviewed by colleagues who could help edit.

2. There are a few places where certain elaborate descriptions are not necessary in a scientific paper. For example, the description of the Woredas where the study is conducted as tourist attractions.

3. Result section: no need to describe in too much detail what is already listed in the demographic table. Just highlight a few key points and refer readers to the table for complete demographic information.

4. Result section: In table 1, it looks like the percentages were calculated with the entire sample size (urban/rural combined) as the denominator for educational status where as this was not the case for the rest of the demographic elements. This makes it very difficult to follow the proportions (ie, are they a proportion of the whole sample or the distinct urban/rural populations. Please make these calculations consistent.

5. In the result section under “exclusive breast feeding heading, line 5.” they refer to the ‘event’, I am assuming the event is cessation of EBF but it would be good to state it so the reader an follow

6. Again in the result section under the heading" Factors associated with cessation of EBF in bivariate and multivariable Cox Proportional Hazards model”, the findings are reported sometimes as percentages and sometimes in whole numbers which makes it difficult to follow. Needs to be consistent.

7. In table 3, I am not sure I understand what criteria was used to divide wealth index from poorest to richest.

8. In the discussion, I would like to hear a bit more insight into the findings. For example:
The authors indicate that the highest proportion of events before the age of six was observed during the first month. In light of the fact that close to 95% of participants were orthodox Christians, any correlation between belief systems and practice for introducing other foods? For example, it seems like introducing butter during baptism seems to be a common practice.

Another factor identified as a risk for early cessation is the need to work outside of the home in those women who are not housewives. Although the authors comment on the need to make the work place more amendable to breast feeding, it is very difficult to imagine a day laboror or an office worker in Ethiopia having access to her baby multiple times during the work day. In western countries, working mothers are able to pump and save their breast milk in refrigerators at the work place. Because of this, they are able to keep themselves well hydrated etc to keep up the breast supply. More recently, there is even a mandate that every post partum woman receive a breast pump for free. If this was not the case, no working woman would be able to sustain breast feeding because the idea of having access to her baby during the work day is almost impossible. What do the authors think about the feasibility of something like that in the setting of rural and urban Ethiopia where such resources are almost completely absent? What kind of interventions would be feasible?

It will be great to discuss “childhood illness” as a major cause of early cessation of breast feeding in the first month of life. Are the children who are sick physically unable to feed or is there another reason why the mother does not want to breast feed a sick child (again religion or belief systems). If it is the later, then maybe there is room for educational intervention to encourage mothers to continue breast feeding even during sickness.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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