Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with non-use of antenatal iron and folic acid supplements among Pakistani women: A cross sectional household survey

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Reviewer: Mohsin Yakub

Reviewer’s report:

This study reported prevalence of IFA supplements from 14 districts of Pakistan and also examined the factors associated with non-use of supplements. This study is important because it provides situational (or landscape) analysis of the use of IFA supplements in a low income Pakistani population, indicating that it is a public health problem. The results revealed that the prevalence of IFA supplements was very low and that the age of women, educational status of women and husband, poverty, no use of ANC and resident of Dera Ghazi Khan were associated with non-use of these supplements. While the manuscript is suitable for publication, there are few concerns/suggestions that must be addressed by the authors before publication.

Comments:

1. Why p less than equal to 0.10 has been chosen instead of p<0.05 as selected criteria for adjustment.
2. Fig. 1 and Table 1 can go online.
3. Table 2, It is advisable to color code the districts according to the province they belong as it will help reader to understand the location of burden.
4. Table 2 & Table 4 can be merged together bay adding column of “ALL”.
5. Define educational status as cut offs for primary and secondary education are different in this part of world.
6. What is the rationale of making Jehlum as reference group?
7. What would be the combined risk (OR), if both respondents and husbands were illiterate?
8. Keep DG Khan and Dear Ghazi Khan consistent in tables.
9. There is strong need to explain the statistical test used in each table under foot note. Also, what p-values refer? Are those p for trend, or chi square etc. etc?
10. Discussion is too long and often repeated sentences from Introduction and results. I suggest authors to cut down discussion at least 25%. Strength and limitations should move to the end.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.