Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with small size at birth in Nepal: further analysis of Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011

Version: 2 Date: 8 November 2013

Reviewer: Chandrashekhar Sreeramareddy

Reviewer's report:

Authors have addressed some but not revised some suggested analysis. Authors should have reported collinearity statistics, and revised analysis after they included some more variables into the models.

I still feel that authors should have a relook at the variables they included into the model, classification of variables etc as a reason for surprisingly few variables associated with size at birth. OR authors should provide convincing arguments in the discussion as to why their results cooking fuel, mothers’ smoking are contrary to the evidence available from literature.

Argument such as "In Nepal, it is possible while a house might use non-polluting fuels for cooking and use polluting fuels for other purposes (e.g. boiling water, cooking food for the cattle, and heating rooms during the winter)".

It is very unlikely that above statement is TRUE. Using cleaner fuels for cooking but not polluting fuels for space heating. It is much of speculation only, authors should provide data for this, if available.

Another argument "It should be noted that the cigarette smoking reported in the study did not take into account the amount of cigarette consumed daily during the pregnancy. Further study may consider the amount of cigarettes consumed amongst mothers as well as passive smoking if such effect exists in Nepal".

Number of cigarettes smoked is indeed available from both men's and women's questionnaire. Authors should try to include this information in the analysis. Moreover, family members smoking, a possible proxy variable for passive smoking is also available from household questionnaire. Authors should possibly look at these variable instead of suggesting further studies.

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'