Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with physical growth of children during first two years of age in rural and urban areas of Vietnam

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2013

Reviewer: Josehat Chinawa

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Factors associated with physical growth of children during first two years of age in rural and urban areas of Vietnam

Discretionary Revisions:
There are associations between growth and the education of the mother as well as household resources. (What about paternal occupation)
To improve and maintain good conditions for child growth it is important to strengthen education of mothers and household resources particularly in the rural areas. What about father’s occupation

Minor Essential Revisions
Key words: Please insert semicolon in between key words, not comma
Definition of variables: page 6: How do WHO define overweight?
Page 4, second paragraph (change to subjects and methods)
Paragraph 2: Substantial evidence is available for the association between child growth and socio-economy. (recast)
Page 8: Ethical consideration: All results will be duly disseminated to communities and authorities. This should be changed to past tense

Major Compulsory Revisions
Introduction 3rd paragraph (page 3): This is not flowing with the last comment
There is no justification for this study
Methods: How did you select your subjects?
What is the reason for not including 12 twins in this study?
Why did you also interview out-migrated (88) families and infants who died.
Birth weights reported by mothers are not without flaws, it would have been better if these mothers present evidence such as birth certificates, immunization cards etc where the birth weight is documented.
How was this weight and length measured, what is the sensitivity of the weighing scales, what is the make of these scales
The economic status were determined by the authors, how then did they determine the social status, bearing in mind that fathers occupation is not considered here

Page 6: Antenatal care variables: What is the source of the criteria used for this variable (Any reference?)

Page 6: Reported Illness symptoms. The illness listed above are very few and may not cover the range of common childhood illnesses as illustrated in IMCI

Discussion: 2nd sentence, first paragraph should be rephrased

The discussion is mainly on other literatures giving less emphasis on author’s results.

Author should state result first, discuss it critically before comparing with other literature

Page 10, paragraph 1 penultimate sentence, (The reason for higher stunting in boys may be that boys are given less breastfeeding than girls) should be rephrased

Discussion should be rewritten in its entire entirety

Some of the references are not in Vancouver style

There is no limitation to this study

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Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests