Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with cognition in late childhood and adolescence: the Young Lives cohort study of children in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam

Version: 2 Date: 16 July 2014

Reviewer: Yoon Phaik Ooi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction
1. The introduction section needs to be further strengthened to include more elaborate review on the relationship between parents' schooling, wealth index, and child nutritional status, and cognition.

2. The contributions of the study are explained. However, the goals of the study were not clearly presented. Also, in the abstract, it is stated that "This study examines the relationship between socioeconomic and growth factors....". In the introduction, the term "nutritional status" was used and subsequently, the term "height" was used. The authors need to be consistent with the terms used in order to avoid confusion.

Methods
1. The authors need to define and elaborate the Study Indicators:
   a. Child Nutritional Status was defined as Height. There is no mention on how height is defined as nutritional status. And there was no mention of Height in the introduction and how it relates to the present study. Please include a short description on height as an indicator of nutritional status for the benefit of readers who may not be familiar with this definition.

   b. Child and Household Indicators: How was the wealth index composite derived?

2. Ethics: Did children/adolescents provide assent/consent?

3. Study procedures: Please include a paragraph on the study procedures. Which language was used in each country?

4. Statistical analysis: This section relates to the research question and hypotheses. Therefore, it needs to be rewritten accordingly.

In view of the changes in the Introduction and Methods sections, the results and discussion sections need to be revised accordingly.

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