Reviewer's report

Title: Interactions among alcohol dependence and perinatal common mental disorders in couples in rural Viet Nam: a cross-sectional study using Structural Equation Modeling

Version: 1 Date: 23 August 2012

Reviewer: Mulusew Gerbaba

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

Abstract section:
• Background: Is the aim of the study described in background goes with the title of the study? Do authors interested to see the interaction of Alcohol dependency through domestic violence? What if other determinants also interact with AD? If the aim of the authors is to see interaction of AD through intimate partner violence. If yes it seems the the authors know the indirect paths before they go to and assess the direct path. If it still hold true is there any place to include the partner violence in the title or re make any statement in the background of the study as their main aim is to see the interactions of alcohol dependency and PCMD excluding the effect of intimate partner violence? Because other determinants also might interact, I guess.

• Method: is it possible to include the study period? Sampling techniques used to get the study subjects? How the SEM interpretation was made?

• Results: It would have been better if the authors include results of structural equation modeling output (either the model fitness indices or standard regression coefficients) showing how much the SEM is better to explore the interactions of determinants (AD, Partner Violence) to influence PCMD? in addition to the multiple logistic regression

Introduction
• The research problem was well defined but It could have been better if the authors describe in one sentence the use of SEM over multiple logistic regressions in investigating the co morbidity of the AD and PCMD

Method section:
• Authors are recommended to include how each of the study subjects was chosen from eligible population? Is there any inclusion and exclusion criteria?

• Authors are also expected to clearly show how the sample size was calculated? How did they manage the design effect of multi stage sampling techniques the used (i.e there is two stage sampling)

• Results and discussion – data sounds very good and comparison is
appropriate. but, In Limitation of the study
- Can the authors describe us the psychometric properties (validity and reliabilities) of their instruments they used from their data either as strength and or limitation of the study? Sometimes reader can make their own conclusion seeing the validity of instruments before going on board to the finding of the study

- how much proportion of the husband did not participate in the study? Is there any possibility of non response bias? I mean don’t we expect that those did not participate in the study can have “special characteristics’ in terms of intimate partner experiences and or alcohol dependencies?

Discretionary revision
- SD can be described as mean( ±SD) rather than = sign

**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