Reviewer's report

Title: Inadequacy of nutrients intake among pregnant women in unrest areas of southern Thailand

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2010

Reviewer: REKIA BELAHSN

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Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. I have read it at length and I am pleased to offer a number of comments and recommendations.

The manuscript entitled “Inadequacy of nutrients intake among pregnant women in unrest areas of southern Thailand” by Phnom Sukchan et al..” is a descriptive study that examined dietary intake inadequacy in terms of nutrients in pregnant women. It also assessed the association between violence and other social factors with nutrient intake. The authors concluded that nutrient intake inadequacy among pregnant women was common in the unrest areas of southern Thailand and that it was aggravated by the political unrest.

The area is one of important scientific investigation and health relevance mainly when dealing with the factors affecting dietary intake inadequacy of pregnant women.

However there are a number of comments that would require to be considered to strengthen the manuscript prior to publication.

I- Major compulsory revision:

1- With regards to the Methods section:

The authors should describe and characterize even succinctly and justify the criteria of the selection as well as the interest of the population sample area for the study.

2- Concerning the Results and Discussion sections:

- The authors did not explain or discuss the results presented in the Table 1 such as the nature of violence, violence rates as well as injury rates.
- The authors did not discuss also some results that need more deepened statistical analyses including other variables that are collected by the authors such as BMI and religion. In addition, the authors did not explain why violence was associated with all the macronutrients and micronutrients but not fat and calcium.
- Also, no analyses were made to compare the impact of violence on pregnant women nutrient intake according to different districts.
3- In the Conclusion section:

- There is confusion to conclude on the results as presented. Indeed the authors made associations between nutrients inadequacy and violence but did not define the violence nor raise any link with pregnant women status, as all the dietary intake components were not equally affected.

II- Minor Essential Revisions

- References:

  The references should be revised, for example the authors should mention if the reference 14 is a book or a report.

  - The manuscript requires revision and editing. There are numerous grammatical and writing errors that would require rewriting to strengthen the manuscript prior to publication.

  Thank you for the opportunity to review this article. I hope that my comments will be taken in account, as a means of refining this manuscript and for further developing a very important line of research.

  **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