Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of maternal education on diet, anemia and iron deficiency in school-aged children in Korea

Version: 2 Date: 8 August 2011

Reviewer: Cho-il Kim

Reviewer's report:

It seems that authors did a good job in answering to issues raised and revising the draft accordingly. However, there are still some missing parts which need to be worked on. And even though we were told that a native English speaker corrected errors, it seems that the English editor did not have enough understanding on what authors want to say in this paper. Authors may need to communicate with the editor once more to be sure about the message this paper is delivering to the readers.

Also, I would like to add following comments for this paper.

* Minor essential revisions

A. In the last sentence of the Background, authors are still using the maternal education as a sole interest of this paper. However, I believe that there must be a very strong association between mothers’ education level and household income level that it is impossible to differentiate the former’s effect from the latter’s effect. This is why it is disturbing to see the mothers’ education emphasized too much in this paper.

B. In Methods section, following points need authors’ attention:

1. Under Subjects, ‘Pediatric Cohort Study, which will follow this student’ should be ‘Pediatric Cohort Study, which follows this student’.

2. Under Structured Questionnaire, the sentences ‘Of the mothers, 1.88% had less than a middle school education, 32.9% had finished high school, and 65.2% had more than a high school education. Of the fathers, the percentages were 1.32%, 22.5%, and 76.2%.’ do not belong to Methods. They should be moved to Results section.

3. Under Dietary Assessment, ‘Inje University Paik Hospital’ should be ‘Seoul-Paik Hospital, Inje University’ as stated under Subjects section.

C. In Results section, following points need authors’ attention:

4. The 4th paragraph in red is different from the answers to reviewer’s point No. 22. In the middle of the sentence, ‘and’ should be replaced by ‘but’ or ‘however’.

D. In Discussion section, following points need authors’ attention:

5. At the 2nd paragraph in red, the word, ‘complicated’, is not appropriate and
rather vague. It is difficult to understand what the entity of that ‘complicated associations’ are.

6. At the 4th paragraph in red, the abbreviation ‘KNHANES’ can be used only after giving full description first.

7. And, I believe that ‘complementary foods containing iron’ must be ‘the major food sources of iron’.

8. Also, wheat has never been a major source of any nutrients for Koreans ever! It must be ‘RICE’.

9. At the 7th paragraph, the sentence ‘In this study, relationship of maternal education and dietary factors may affects anemia and iron deficiency were significant’ does not make sense at all and is wrong in grammar. And following 2 sentences do not sound right either. I wonder if the English editor was paying attention to every sentence throughout the paper.

E. Tables:

10. In Table 3, ‘eating carbonated beverages’ should be ‘drinking carbonated beverages’ as used in the text.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.