Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 4 August 2011

Reviewer: Sophie Hawkesworth

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank the authors for taking on board the various comments made by the reviewers and for making changes to the manuscript. I still have a few comments on the latest version of the manuscript which are outlined below.

Minor compulsory revisions

The presentation of statistical results in the abstract and some of the text requires further editing; p-values on their own in do not provide much information and should be accompanied with an indication of the effect size. Exact p-values should be reported rather than cut-offs such as <0.05. This has been amended in some of the results section but not in all or in the abstract.

I thank the authors for explaining their rationale for choosing serum iron concentration to define iron deficiency in this population but this should also be explained in the manuscript.

On page 4 the authors have added sentences that explain the long-term consequences of anaemia but these statements should be referenced.

I thank the authors for providing further details in the methods section of the study, particularly on the measurement of dietary intake. It should be made clear in this section that no quantification of portion size was possible. I am still unclear as to how the diaries of food intake were converted into nutrient intakes.

The authors need to be careful of over-interpreting a cross-sectional association such as this. On page 11 they state that the ‘present study highlights the importance of maternal education in terms of children’s health’ but I would argue that such a strong statement cannot be made from the analysis conducted here.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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