Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Prenatal Zinc Deficiency in Rural Sidama, Southern Ethiopia: A Cross-sectional Study.

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2011

Reviewer: Akiko Kojima-Yuasa

Reviewer's report:

This study demonstrated the prevalence and determinants of prenatal zinc deficiency in Rural Sidama, Southern Ethiopia: A cross-sectional study.

However, there are several concerns relating Methodology, Results and Discussion that should be carefully addressed by the authors.

Authors discussed that “the study was carried out in January and February which are locally considered as transitional months to household food insufficiency. If the study had been conducted in food insecurity prone months like April, May and June, a higher prevalence of zinc deficiency would have been reported.”

Why did the author decide that the research should be done in January and February?

Authors should describe about IGA and CEB fully.

Authors should discuss about correlation with maternal education and zinc status.

Authors discussed that frequency of coffee intake was negatively associated with serum zinc level.

However, serum zinc level of people > 3 coffee cups were significantly higher than that of ≤ 3 coffee cups. Authors should discuss about it.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.