Reviewer's report

Title: Feeding styles of caregivers of children 6-23 months in Derache special district, Southern Ethiopia

Version: 2 Date: 8 September 2011

Reviewer: Amy E Brown

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is an interesting paper. Although maternal child feeding style has received considerable attention in Western communities, variations and outcomes have not been fully considered in the developing world.

Major revisions

1. Literature Review: A paragraph discussing the outcomes of studies examining child-feeding style in Western culture would be pertinent (e.g. pressure to eat is often seen as negative, use of restriction and weight and so on). This could then be used to lead into how feeding style would need to be different in the targeted outcomes due to opposite issues with weight and eating. Greater emphasis could then be placed on why this is such an important study - it is a new area and the impact of feeding style needs to be explored.

2. More detail needs to be given on why different caregivers sometimes completed the interview. Were they the main caregiver?

3. Was there any difference in feeding style according to caregiver? Were grandmothers for example different in their approach to biological mothers?

4. Some studies in Western culture show feeding differences between male and female infants. Did any differences in style occur?

5. Again in the discussion I think the findings need to be contrasted to the wide body of literature exploring maternal child feeding style in Western Culture. Why might pressure to eat be better in these situations?

6. Greater emphasis on the need for further work to follow up outcomes of different styles is needed.

Overall however I think that this is an interesting paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests