Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns and Determinants of Breastfeeding and Weaning Practices of Emirati Mothers in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 1 Date: 9 August 2012

Reviewer: Suneth Agampodi

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. The manuscript submitted was not according to the guidelines provided. Abstract was missing from the manuscript file and there were highlighted areas.

2. In the introduction, better to include the present state of breastfeeding promotion (it is already there, but need more) in UAE

3. Methods are inadequate. Sampling technique is not clear. How did you recruit mothers from the 4 randomly selected clinics. Even though it was mentioned that the sampling procedure was convenient, it needs further explanation.

4. What was the rationale for selecting 200 from each city?

5. Who collected data and what was the method use for recall. Was it only the recall? At 2 years of age, effect of recall bias on exclusive breastfeeding could be substantial. This issue needs to be discussed thoroughly in the discussion.

6. Discussion is too long a repetition of results. More focused discussion with that is interesting for international readership is recommended

7. The sampling procedure is not a probability sampling and it does not allow generalization of results. This need to be discussed as a limitation.

Minor essential revisions
Use of weaning and complimentary feeding- Please use the standard definitions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests