Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring variations in childhood stunting in Nigeria using league table, control chart and spatial analysis

Version: 2 Date: 10 February 2013

Reviewer: Handan Wand

Reviewer's report:

I have only minor comments:
1. On page 11, under the section “Spatial correlation”: first 3 sentences are repeating the information, perhaps they can be combined as 2 sentences (or 1);
2. On page 11, under the section “Spatial correlation”: sentence starts “The formal test was significant at p<0.001);
First please state spatial correlation between what? (cases & locations?);
Second, please edit the same sentence: after you state the p-value, it is not necessary to re-state or mention that this association was significant. Perhaps you may combine the two sentences: starts with "The formal test..." & “ thus suggesting that there is statistically significant ...”

3. I am not sure why the authors are calling the "hot spot" as "high-high clusters"? Seems to me unnecessary adjective(s); similarly, I don’t think that it is necessary to define or refer the regions as “low-low clusters”; if you use these definition, one expect to see that where the others are? i.e. low-high, high-low? When the authors stated on page 11 (last sentence): “The other states marked in white are locations with no statistically significant autocorrelation”; Does it mean that the authors ONLY determined high-high and low-low regions using the software (and there were no high-low and low-high?)? Please clarify.

4. Page 10, under the section titled “Software”; Please delete the sentence starts with GeoDa provides.....

5. Please shorten the section under the section call “Funnel plot”;

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

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'