Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the gap between hand washing knowledge and practices in Bangladesh: a cross-sectional comparative study

Version: 2 Date: 25 July 2012

Reviewer: Patrizia Laurenti

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The critical times identified in section "data management and analysis" do not correspond with those described in section "index for hand washing at critical time"

It is necessary a better explication of Index for hand washing to understand the association with factors influencing hygienic hand washing.

Results showed in Table 1 do not refer to knowledge but to attitudes and practice.

Figure 3 refers only to "before feeding babies" and I see a depletion of knowledge from baseline to midline but an increase from midline to endline.

On page 8 the Authors discuss a result (in this section, the results must be only presented, but not discussed). In any case, I think there is an error because you declare that you performed the comparison for matched households, that means the same sample...

Table 2 refers to "washing hands before cleaning babies and after cleaning child stools" and not to "handling food samples"

Minor Essential Revisions
The Authors must explain the acronymous BRAC
The authors must better explain the time duration of observation at baseline, midline and endline (there is an error in page 5 in which midline is year 2006?)

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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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