Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes Mellitus in North West Ethiopia: a community based study

Version: 1 Date: 19 October 2013

Reviewer: Nebiyu Mesfin

Reviewer's report:

I would like to appreciate the authors of this manuscript for choosing a very important, timely and so far under-studied topic in the country. I have the following comments and concerns though.

1. It would have been more interesting if the type of DM you have studied is known. In your case, I think there is no distinction made among the types of DM. Moreover, Since your study included only subjects who are older than 35 years, the study could miss a portion of DM patients existing in the region who are < 35 years age. And, DM in those group of population could impact the prevalence (overall picture) of DM in the area.

2. I am thinking that the age >35 years is used to make the study subjects mainly composed of Type 2 DM. However, we may have adolescents & young adults with type 2 DM. Moreover, there could be patients > 35 yrs with Type 1 DM, Type 3 DM or Type 4 DM. And the exclusion criterion should be mentioned (e.g. pregnancy). Some of the subjects included in this study (20 - 35 %) are known diabetic patients whose type of DM and the duration since diagnosis not mentioned. Which means it could be any of the four types of DM.

3. The associated factors for DM will be relevant if we are specifically talking about a specific Type of DM. The risk factors for Type 1 DM could be totally different from type 2, 3 or 4. So, the generalize-ability of the associated factors could be threatened.

Looking forward to hear from the authors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing of interests.