Reviewer’s report

Title: Postpartum practices of puerperal women and their influencing factors in three regions of Hubei, China

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2006

Reviewer: Colin Binns

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a very interesting descriptive paper on an important subject.

The sample is large and seems appropriate
Statistical Analysis is appropriate
English “ needs extensive editing of english

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. For most statistics in the text only one decimal place should be used.
2. Provide additional descriptive statistics. For example Cesarean sections and attendance at Nutrition Education are mentioned as important variables. What proportion of the three groups had c-sections or attended nutrition education.
3. The authors should think about their results and explain them in the discussion. For example attending nutrition education courses seems to associated with eating less fruit. Why?
4. There seem to be some differences between the text and the tables. The text states “Subjects who residing in city, participation in nutrition education courses, having a higher education level and a higher family income was the positive influencing factors of milk intake.” Yet “participation in nutrition education courses” does not appear in the milk section of Table 3
5. This is a cross sectional retrospective survey. This type of study is limited in its ability to draw conclusions about causality.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'