Reviewer's report

Title: Household headship and child death: Evidence from Nepal

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Reviewer: Margaret Elizabeth Kruk

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Re-review of MS: 3694427143218981
Research article
Household headship and child death: Evidence from Nepal
Ramesh Adhikari and Chai Podhisita
BMC International Health and Human Rights

The authors have addressed the majority of my concerns. A few remaining issues:

1. The first stage of DHS sampling is random sampling with probability proportional to size NOT systematic (that is at a later stage).
2. The Methods section needs to include the theory-based explanation for inclusion of the explanatory variables, citing appropriate literature. For example, care-seeking variables are not necessarily a measure of the status of women as the authors state in their response to reviewers. This section need not be long.
3. The term “child death experience” should be replaced everywhere with “experience of child death”
4. The reason for the association between parity and mortality is primarily that women with more children are simply more likely to have one of them die (higher exposure). This is not due to repeat childbearing. The more relevant variable here would be birth spacing, where there is clear evidence that births less than two years apart confer higher risk of child death.

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