Reviewer’s report

Title: Socio-economic and demographic Determinants of Under-five Mortality in rural northern Ghana

Version: 2 Date: 19 June 2014

Reviewer: Elizabeth Abu-Haydar

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Major compulsory revisions:
The authors state on page 3 line 58 that the major predictors of under five mortality are: the mother’s education level, presence of co-wives, age and marital status.

In the conclusion on p 19 line 414 the predictors stated differ. There is also some discrepancy between the discussion of significant determinants and the conclusion for ex: autonomy in this study did not show statistically significant effects on under five mortality, yet it is listed as a key predictor. This should be clarified.

Minor Essential revisions:
line 63- incomplete sentence
line 64- must read under five deaths
line 67- suggest specifying the attributes such as age, marital status and economic status instead of more general terms such as individual, social and economic attributes
line 95- substitute "of" for "at"

background section line 86-138 jumps around and it is sometimes confusing. Suggest moving the section from lines 105-112 and insert it at the end of line 133 to tie in the discussion around Ghana.
line 157- Specify date of GEHIP- 2010?
Line 164- change face to read faced
Line 223- Edit redundant words- delete "before the survey was carried out"

In table 1- under polygamous partner there is a category for no partner how is that differentiated for the analysis from not married?

Line 267- Is there a reason that the p value for religion was not reported? please add that.

figure 2- if religious affiliation was shown to be a non-significant determinant why did the authors choose to illustrate the relation

Figure 1 level of education is one of the key predictors of under five mortality but why is it the only predictor shown in a figure? Will the authors add figures for the
other three predictors (age marital status and polygamous )
line 408- change giving to given

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