Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of Mothers' Socio-Economic Status on the Management of febrile conditions in their under five children in a Resource Limited Setting.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Comment 1
Good observation but requires no response.

Comment 2
a) Authors conception of Febrile Conditions;
Answer; Febrile conditions refers to a state of being feverish which is usually associated with malaria, measles, neonatal tetanus, pneumonia, whooping cough etc (See page 3)

b) Where were these children recruited?
The focus of the study is on Mothers not the children. The study sample was recruited from the outpatient Department of the health facility used (see page 4).

c) Did you obtain any consent from the mothers?
A written letter was taken to the health facility seeking for permission to conduct the study. The Medical director in conjunction with the management gave verbal consent allowing the study to progress. Verbal consents were also obtained from the selected mothers and only mothers willing to participate in the study formed the sample (See page 5).

Comment 3
a) Who were you including in the study?
Mothers of under-five children with febrile conditions (See pages 3 and 4)

b) If a mother comes with two children with fever, what did you do?
The mothers with two children were interviewed in respect to one of the children. Our focus was on how the mothers manage their children with febrile conditions.

c) If the child was accompanied by an auntie, caretaker or another woman other than the mother, how did you handle the situation?
Our focus was on the biological mother of the febrile child. Other people who brought the children were not included (See page 4)

Comment 4
a) Who carried out the interview and filled in the questionnaires?
Two female interviewers who were polytechnic students but natives of the community of study were trained in the use of the questionnaires. These interviewers were deliberately chosen from the community to facilitate flow of information and all interview sections were done on one to one basis. The research team supervised the training and the fieldwork (See page 4)

b) Was any translation from one language into another needed? Yes (See page 4)
c) What variables were used to assess the socio economic status?
Occupation, Education and Income were used as proxy for socio economic status.

d) Have the authors heard of Principle Component Analysis? Yes

e) Did you use it? No.

Comment 5
a) What variables were studied?
Age, Educational level, family structure, Occupation, Income, Child's illness history, and Action taken at home.

b) Were any other variable looked at e.g. nature of the dwelling house?
This is a hospital-based study and not a household based study. Therefore, the nature of the house was not studied.

c) Variables included in the model.
The quantitative analysis was done using stepwise regression, which is a multi-variate analysis. At no point was Student T-test adopted because we find it grossly inadequate for analysis of the data generated in this study. The variables in the model were Income, Education and Occupation (independent variables) while Health seeking behaviour of the mothers of the under-five children was the dependent variable.

Comment 6
Discussion mixed up with the results. This has being taken care of. The results have been separated from the discussion. Reference has also been made to the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey as it relates to this study.

REVIEWER 2: GLORIA MACASSA

Comment 1; Discretionary Revisions

a) No Reference to Szreter's work.
This has been taken care of in the introduction

b) The need for more references.
This has also been taken care of.
Comment 2; Major Compulsory Revisions

a) Table 1- there are no women with 'No Education', the category of 'Others' under occupation and the ‘Income’.

The community of study operates a free primary education system; therefore it is not unexpected that all the women interviewed had undergone a form of formal education. (See Revised discussion on page 6)

The ’Others' under occupation means ‘Civil Servants’ which include teachers, nurses and other professionals (See Table 1).

Income: It is agreed that except for those women who are civil servants and were classified under 'Others', all other women are engaged in the informal sector while the Full time Housewives receive money from their husbands and relatives. Therefore the income was based on how much the women indicated that they received or earned everyday. This was then calculated per week

c) The econometric method is a multivariate analysis method that allows the possibility of capturing the statistical effects of independent variables on the dependent variable. After considering other applicable inferential statistical techniques, the authors find this method as quite appropriate.

Comment 3

A) The use of one table in presenting the results.
In consonance with your suggestion, tables 3 and 4 have been coalesced into one single table.