Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of fertility in Rwanda in the context of a fertility transition: A secondary analysis of the 2010 Demographic and Health Survey

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Reviewer: Betty Kwagala

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Determinants of fertility in Rwanda in a Context of a Fertility Transition: A secondary analysis of the 2010 Demographic and Health Survey

The question addressed may not be new but the significant fertility decline in the context of the Great Lakes region is new.

Reliable DHS data were used and sampling weights applied.

The manuscript requires grammatical editing. Some parts of the manuscript that require editing in terms of consistence and flow of ideas. The second part of the title could be omitted.

Major compulsory revision:
• Why was the variable “Age” left out of the final model? The variable “Province” should also be considered.

Minor Essential Revisions:
• Methods – Indicate whether permission to use the data was obtained from Measure DHS.
• L172 – 175 – The variable in question is “Type of Earnings” and not “Employment” unless type of earning is used as a proxy for employment. The variable “employment” presented in this section integrates types of earnings; how was it computed? Employment in DHS included small scale/subsistence agriculture work which is usually done by persons of low social economic status. I am not sure about Rwanda but persons that may refer to themselves as unemployed are those that are trained, have the skills but cannot find suitable work. These are usually persons of relatively higher social economic status.
• L221-227 - this part of the discussion is not clearly linked to the findings.
• L254-256 – could the authors provide a reference that relates to the observation?
• The authors could consider inclusion of other “partner” characteristics since one of the recommendations is male involvement in family planning.

Discretionary Revisions:
• The second part of the title could be omitted.
• In the introductory part, a brief review of fertility rates and predictors of fertility in the EA region could be useful.
• Recommendations could be separated from the discussion
• Abbreviations could be integrated in the body of the article since they are few.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.