Reviewer's report

Title: Levels and Patterns of Teenage Marital Pregnancy among Bangladeshi Women

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Reviewer: Ariani Souza

Reviewer's report:

Report of the manuscript: 'Levels and Patterns of Teenage Marital Pregnancy among Bangladeshi Women'

Minor comments (spelling, typographical errors, grammatical errors, stylistic suggestions etc) This article needs a grammatical revision.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
The question is not new at all because pregnancy in teenager is a big problem around in the world and other articles already posed this question exhaustively. However this article is interesting because in Bangladeshi it could be worse because their culture of getting married early and soon after getting pregnant.
The question is well defined – the authors aimed to identify factors affecting adolescent pregnancy but they didn't focus the introduction, discussion and conclusions on the factors affecting teenage pregnancy researched in this article.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
Not at all. The authors didn´t explain some variables like for example: “mass media” – they have to give more details about this: what kind of media do they have (radio, TV and so on). Another variable – education - what kind of education- It is not specified.
The tables don´t stand alone. Some words in the table are without definition.
What does RC, B SE, CI mean? I know that they are statistic terms, but the authors should explain in the footnote or in the text their meaning.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
Yes, the data is sound and well controlled.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
I observed that the authors didn´t explore the data adequately. In different places of the manuscript they emphasized the “desire of children” of the adolescents.
The most difficult part to modify in a population is a feeling of “desire”
I don’t think there is a strategy to modify “desire”.
The authors should explore more the factors associated with the pregnancy and give reasons for these associations.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
No, they didn’t write a properly conclusion.
As I said before the authors chose to emphasized “desire” in the conclusions, but I think that they can’t do it.
They should have only concluded that there are some factors associated with the pregnancy in teenager in this location.
In the conclusions the authors wrote about how to modify the desire of having children among adolescents and I think that is very difficult to found a kind of strategies to modify “desire”. Therefore, the authors put some references in the conclusion and it is not recommended.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
I don’t think that the title is adequately. The authors didn’t investigate about levels and patterns of teenage marital pregnancy as mentioned in the title.
They investigated the factors associated with pregnancy in the adolescence age.
The abstract doesn’t convey what has been found. The methodology of the abstract is very poor and the conclusions of the abstract are not a conclusion of this article. The conclusions should answer the objective directly.

7. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

Same considerations:
I only recommend this article to publication if the authors can do a major revision focus in the main results.
In the introduction – I recommended remove the 3th and 4th paragraphs, because they don’t help the rationale of the issue.
In the methods section – the authors should explain the variables like “exposed to mass media”, “joint family” “had education” – what do these mean? Which level of education? Why write (no showed) after the age categories in this section?
In the Data Analysis Section- What does “necessary screening was performed subsequently” mean?
It could be useful a table with the frequencies of adolescents characteristics. You do not mention table in this section.
Results section: join table 1 and 2. Explain some words in table in the footnote.
The authors couldn’t state: “Participants aged 20-24 years had higher likelihood for adolescent marital pregnancy” because the OR (Odds Ration) was not statistically significant. In this case there is no association or risk. Table 3 is misplaced - into the discussion section.

Discussion and conclusion section – The focus of the discussion should be in the results found and the authors should modify and shorten the conclusions.

Minor Essential Revisions
The bi-variate regression analysis (table 1 and 2) should be showed in an unique table like was done in the table 3 (multivariate regression).

Ariani Impieri de Souza

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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 interesting