Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of diarrhea and associated factors among under-five children in Bahir Dar city, Northwest Ethiopia, 2016: a cross sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 12 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The study has an excellent design and careful execution to answer a question about a common child heath condition.

To help the authors understand my point, we can think about the sanitation practices and child growth. There are many observational studies that show that stunting is more likely in households with poor sanitation practices. But when 3 really large, really good interventional studies were done, one being
SHINE in Zimbabwe where 18,000 vented pit latrines were constructed, the children did not grow 1 mm taller. So the association between poor sanitation and poor growth is that it does not mean poor sanitation caused poor growth. What these authors need to say is that this association that they found can be used for hypothesis generation for further evidence generation; it is not appropriate to say that encouraging the use/construction of latrines would be helpful. Going through the manuscript and seeing where the authors have done this would be an instructive exercise for them.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
The authors should remember that this is an association study, which is best used for hypothesis generation. They state that improving sanitation facilities in homes will result in less diarrhea. These data do not support this recommendation. The data simply associate sanitation practices with diarrhea.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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