Reviewer's report

Title: Infant and Child Feeding Index Reflects Feeding Practices, Nutritional Status of Urban Slum Children

Version: 3 Date: 25 June 2014

Reviewer: Jingxu Zhang

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions: YES – as follows:

Methods:

Study Site and Sample Selection and Infant and child feeding index (ICFI) sections, lines 98-112

-- Why only the children aged 9-24 months were included in the study, not including 6-8 months? While, ICFI scoring system included children aged 6-8 months. Were these children included in data collection but excluded in analysis? According WHO recommendation, children aged 6 months can be added complementary foods and 6-8 months of age is much important for children' growth, if they can not be provided complementary food timely and reasonable, underweight, stunting and wasting will happen.

-- Also, in Table 1, ICFI scoring system did not include children aged 18-24 months, how the author assessed these children's ICFI?

Results:

-- The samples were children aged 9-24 months, only 3 months of children were below 12 months years old and 12 months of children were more than 12 months, Why the author divided group by 12 months of child' age?

-- In the results and Tables 2-3, 12 months of age were also excluded in the analysis, is it a mistake?

-- ICFI score section: ICFI scoring system included breastfeeding variable, 2 scores can be added to the total ICFI if breastfeeding is yes, so breastfed children can have higher scores than non-breastfed children, the description is meaningless in line 155-157.

-- "Older children had significantly lower scores than the younger children (F=8.546, p=0.004). There was significant interaction between breast feeding status and age category (F=6.676, p=0.010) but not between sex and age category ((F=1.532, p=0.216). Also the interaction between all three variables was not statistically significant (F=0.193, p=0.661)." This paragraph is not clearly and inaccurately.

-- Line 205-214 and Table 5, I am not sure if the data is suitable for multivariate regression analysis? For our understanding, Children' height and weight depend on parent’s BMI and child feeding, especially breastfeeding and the
complementary food, nut R2 (Table 5) is too small, the analysis should be confirmed by statistician.

The prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting was high in the present study, if the prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting is more adaptive to analysis the association between nutritional status and ICFI or other factors.

Tables:
-- Tables in this study are not normative and should be revised according to “instruction for author” of the journal.

Discussion:
-- Limitations of the work should be mentioned and clearly stated in this section.

2. Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Methods:
Study Site and Sample Selection:
-- The time of the samples being selected was not described clearly.

**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