Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of Undernutrition among Children Under-Five Years Old in Southern Ethiopia: Does Pregnancy Intention Matter? A Community-Based Unmatched Case-Control Study

Version: 0 Date: 18 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Raja Chakraborty

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:
The cases and controls should be clarified in abstract.
The key words could be more judiciously chosen. For example, child malnutrition, Ethiopia, Stunting, under five, pregnancy, etc.

Introduction:
The Introduction is well written, the state of knowledge in the area of study is well documented.

However the justification of the study is a bit weak. Particularly, the reason of studying the association in the specific population should be explained with some evidence or mentioning lack of evidence.

Page 3, line 47: The study revealed the association, not the 'effect'.

Methods:

One of my major concerns about how was this equal number of Cases and controls were generated by simple random selection?

The clear definition of the cases and the controls should be stated clearly in the methods.

Page 4, lines 37-47: The sampling procedure is not clear, for example, who were selected from the stunted and who were selected from the non-stunted children?

The process of randomization is not clarified. How was the 'simple random sampling' undertaken?

The unmatched case control study may be a little bit explained in the light of the objective of the study for wider readership.

Please clarify EDHS 2016 with proper reference.
Very important: Was the Z-score transformation internal or with reference to a standard reference population? Z-score should be calculated with reference to 'standard population' data, e.g., CDC, WHO or local standard.

Statistical analyses were appropriately undertaken.

However, classification characteristics for each categorical variables should be explained in brief in Methods section.

For example, how was the adequate meal frequency contrasted with inadequate?

Discussion:

Page 8, line 35: The finding of the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey indicated here may be stated clearly.

What was the probable reason that Mothers' educational status did not show any significant impact?

Page 9, line 31: Could not the difference be due to the difference in methods of assessment of feeding pattern between the studies?

Conclusion:

The conclusion is satisfactorily clear and objective friendly.

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

No

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

Unable to assess

**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:

Acceptable

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