Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in Healthy Life Expectancy and the Correlates of Self-rated Health in Bangladesh between 1996 and 2002

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Reviewer: Domantas Jasilionis

Reviewer's report:

The authors provide new and interesting insights on healthy life expectancy and its determinants in Bangladesh. The paper is well written.

However, there are few shortcomings.

1) It would be much more interesting if the authors also consider disability- or chronic illness adjusted life expectancies. However, this is not possible due to the data restrictions. In this case, the authors should provide at least some references to other studies examining determinants of the objective and self-reported health status in Bangladesh (if any).

2) The estimation of healthy life expectancies are based on the Matlab mortality data and prevalence data from the World Value Survey (WVS) data. Besides acknowledging shortcomings of the WVS data, the authors should provide more information about the Matlab data (coverage and other characteristics).

3) The description of independent variables (4 pages) is obviously too long and should be shortened.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests