Reviewer's report

Title: Causes of Adult Female Deaths in Bangladesh: Findings from Two National Surveys

Version: 2 Date: 30 May 2015

Reviewer: Eiko Saito

Reviewer's report:

This paper studies the cause-specific mortality rates and changes in the causes of deaths over time using two nationally representative surveys in Bangladesh. The study provides some interesting findings, that the major cause of deaths in teenage women was unnatural death. Weaknesses of this study, however, is a lack of statistical tests to support the findings.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. The data quality remains a major concern in the current study. Mortality due to “Not classified” seems high compared with other major causes of deaths in both years. Does the validation studies mentioned in the discussion section (page 11) adhere to the same study protocol? What are the reasons for a large number of cases unclassified?
  2. Please explain if the sample size has sufficient power to estimate the cause-specific mortality rates other than maternal mortality.
  3. Data and Methods (page 5 to 6): please explain the analysis in detail. Has the sampling weight been applied in the analyses? How were the mortality rates derived?
  4. Tables 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4, 5: please provide 95% CIs if applicable.
  5. Please provide P for trend in mortality rates and age-specific causes of death (Tables 2a – 3b) and proportion of deaths occurred in health facilities (Tables 4 and 5) to assess if there was a significant change between two survey years. It may be too early to conclude about the trends before conducting a statistical test.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  5. Please rank the causes of deaths in Table 1.
  6. Please provided the disaggregated results by rural and urban areas.
  7. Please do not show the same data both in the tables and in the figures – figures should be used only when the new results are presented.
  8. Please explain why other studies reported higher suicide rates than the current study. The authors should make a careful assessment of the trends in suicide rates in two survey years since the p for trend has not been provided in the manuscript.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.