Reviewer's report

Title: Long Run Height and Education Implications of Early Life Growth Faltering: A Synthetic Panel Analysis of 425 Birth Cohorts in 21 Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Version: 0 Date: 17 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Tae-Young Pak

Reviewer's report:

This study uses a pooled Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data to evaluate associations between exposure to early life growth faltering and adult height and education outcomes. The authors find that early childhood growth is a major predictor of height outcomes but has had limited influence on education outcomes. The study touches upon an interesting question and is based on a sound empirical framework. I only have a few comments:

The authors need to clarify the following sentence on page 5, "Cohorts are defined as children who are born in a region or province of a country in a given year."

The standard errors may need to be clustered at both age and country levels using two-way clustering.

In terms of interpretation of coefficient estimates (tables 2 and 3), the readers may benefit from percent increase interpretation based on back-of-the-envelope calculation (compared to the sample mean of y). This will give a more intuitive description of effect size.

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:

Acceptable

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