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: 1 Date: 24 May 2019

Reviewer: Iftikhar Charan

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

Manuscript Number: PUBH-D-19-01406

The manuscript reports on the Long run implication of early life growth faltering. The results are interesting, but the novelty & importance of results are not clear. I have carefully revised the manuscript quite interesting paper. I have the following questions and comments:

Title: Long Run Implications of Early Life Growth Faltering: A Synthetic Panel Analysis of 425 Birth Cohorts in 21 Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Old concept, new insights.

I would like to have overviews main sections of the manuscript thoroughly modify like abstract and background.

It seems that the authors just lay facts together under each subtitle, without integrating the facts into new insight, as they indicated in the title. So it would be good to give more detailed reasoning.

However, the authors only listed the findings from different literatures, without giving proper analysis on the discrepancies among various studies, let along providing profound clues or prospect for further studies. This makes this review weak.

Please provide more description of the background of this study line 78-80 authors should explain, how and when were people surveyed? Which methods using for data? This research based on the statistical data through DHS?

The paper should discuss what the implications of this study for wider study "Long run implication of early life growth faltering"?

Methods

It would be useful if the authors explicitly explained their research methodology.
The method section is the backbone of research; authors should provide sample questions from the interview guide? Line 107 "Finally, when considering the relatively large proportion of individuals who were still in school at age 18, we focused on the sample of adults aged 21 and older in order to obtain a more complete measure of adult educational attainment as an outcome". Please proved to sample of data? Was a human subject's approval received?

Above authors statement and (This research was conducted without patient or public involvement. Patients and the public were not directly involved in the development of the research question, outcome measures, or study design. Patients did not contribute to the interpretation of the results or the writing or editing of this document) contradiction statements, where is a novelty? Where are the new things? This study based on the assumption?

Please provide references for the long-run implication of early life growth faltering.

Line 155-158, need to be corrected as the sentence is not meaningful; authors should modify.

Line 269 author's statement, "This research was conducted without patient or public involvement. Patients and the public were not directly involved in the development of the research question, outcome measures, or study design. Patients did not contribute to the interpretation of the results or to the writing or editing of this document". How to the interpretation of this study? How to illuminate people perception of (Long run implication of early life growth faltering)? Without judgment of participators difficult to understand the audience.

Although more than 30 references were cited, many of them are not fully discussed in the text. Thus the review gives readers an impression of too simple. Please extract more details from the original papers, and construct more discussion to form a point.

Finally, the two figures are poorly made, and the information in these two figures is not precise.

There is a lot of room to improve the overall language of the article.

**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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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