Reviewer's report

Title: Risk Factors of Morbidity among Children under Age Five in Ethiopia

Version: 2 Date: 10 May 2019

Reviewer: Solomon Abera

Reviewer's report:

The authors have investigated one of the key public health problems contributing to high mortality in Ethiopia. I believe that this study will contribute to the child mortality reduction strategies being implemented in the country.

Saying this, I have seen that most of the comments given by the previous reviewers have been addressed by the authors. However, there are comments that the authors have to addressed before publication, particularly in the method section. The comments are below:

1. Abstract result section, breastfeeding was reported to have significant association with diarrhea and fever, but in the conclusion section the author concluded that non breast feeding is associated with higher odds of morbidity. It looks there is confusion in describing breastfeeding status and breastfeeding. Please review and correct this through out the document as it appears in many places.

2. Page 2 line 26: breast feeding was reported as one risk factor with significant association. Do you mean breast feeding status? Please correct the language if you are referring to breast feeding status as I also commented before

3. Page #4 line 26, the method section is not well elaborated. How sample size was determined?, assumption considered for sample size determination? The different sections of the method are not also described separately and clearly. There is only data source sub section where all information is mixed for data source, sample size, sampling technique and data collection. Please follow the outline of BMC publication for the method section where you should describe the different section of the method clearly and separately.
4. Page #4, line 33-37, what was the total enumeration areas (EA), how did you decide to select 645 EA? How did you decide the urban and rural number of EA? Additional you only mentioned the first stage sampling procedure. What was the second stage sampling procedure, you should describe this as well, preferable in a separate sub section.

5. Page # 6, line 18 and 20: abbreviations AR and QIC used for the first time should be described in full words

6. Page#6, line 55, the level of significance is not explained. For all comparison, the level of significance should be presented along with the percentage.

7. Page #7, line 4-7 breastfed children have higher rate of diarrhea, what would be the possible explanation for this? Normally breast feeding prevents diarrhea unlike the finding in this paper

8. Page 11, discussion part: the author did not discuss the important finding of the higher risk of diarrhea disease among children who breast fed? As this finding is in contrary to many other studies where actually breastfeeding prevents diarrhea, it is important to discuss this finding in the discussion section, compare with other findings and explain possible reason for the finding.

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.

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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