Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Factors Associated with Occupation Changes after Pregnancy/Delivery: Result from Japan Environment & Children's Pilot Study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 24 Apr 2017

**Reviewer:** Lisa Russell

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting topic area that deserves attention. The paper is generally written well but here are a few suggestions that I think may help clarify its focus and coherency.

1) The title is a little cumbersome - The terminology 'Japan environment' may be more succinctly put (or indeed left out) and I had difficulty understanding what the 'Children's Pilot Study' actually was - was this the name of the project? This aspect requires clarification further on in the paper.

2) In the introduction 'background' context I recommend adding some more specificities such as using actual figures for percentages of females returning to work after having children - 2013 data from the Ministry of Health is later quoted but this seems a little dated, do you have access to more recent data?

3) I might be tempted to use 'employment' rather than 'occupation' in the key words to access international audiences better.

4) Reference the 'internet based interview' study mentioned to add credibility to the argument.

5) Further details would add context to the study and help develop a firmer conclusion section. For example - how was the questionnaire data analysed? What type of questionnaire was used? When was the questionnaire administered and how? More context in terms of 'occupational split' would be of use and a stronger link to how this may be related to socio-economic status would be helpful, the literature informs us that socio-economic status and type of employment matter! What was the geographic spread of these women (in Japan)? What is the 'Children's Pilot Study?' How were these women 'targeted' exactly, what was the sampling technique used? More on the policy context of helping working mothers get back to work (or not) would also be of interest here and would all help develop the rather scant conclusion offered. The conclusion is succinct but needs to be developed to link better to the existing literature and policy context.

I encourage the author to add these details and make these amendments as the content of the paper is really interesting.
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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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