Reviewer’s report

Title: Health status of children left behind in rural areas of Sichuan Province of China: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 22 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Heng Li

Reviewer's report:

The topic of this article is very meaningful and is aimed to investigate the influence of being left behind the health on children's physical and mental health in rural areas of China. However, there are two important questions to be interpreted. The first, left-behind Children's definition and criteria (in line 146-148) is not described clearly and definitely. For example, above how many months being left behind in the original residence and not living with parents can be called left-behind Children. The second is the most important, the physical health and mental health is measured only by several simple questions and not be tested by the standardized scale. For example, the physical health only measured by the cough or respiratory difficulties, diarrhea, Twitch in two weeks is not enough. And to measure the mental health can use the Mental Health Scale for Secondary School Students.

Overall, the research topic is important, but the design of data collection and measurement need to be interpreted.

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.

Unable to assess

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:

Acceptable

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