Reviewer’s report

Title: Girl child marriage, socioeconomic status, and undernutrition: Evidence from 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa

Version: 0 Date: 26 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Helene Delisle

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper examining the links between early marriage and likelihood of underweight in a very large sample taken from DHS data in 35 African countries. The study was well done, the manuscript is clear and well-illustrated. The conceptual framework is good. I only have a few minor suggestions.

1. In the introduction, a few words could be added on the adverse effects of adolescent pregnancy also on the offspring.
2. Line 10, p. 4: This is an old reference and briefly describing how nutritional status is assessed differently among adolescents would be relevant.
3. In Table 1, median age at marriage is lower in the adult marriage category: there may have been an inversion.
4. Figure 4: Is it possible to leave a blank for the countries not covered in this study?
5. Line 30, p. 7: We suggest to use "the double burden of MALNUTRITION".
6. Are there country features that the authors would associate with the modulation of the association of child marriage with odds of underweight?

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

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

**Statement on potential review bias**
Please complete a statement on potential review bias, considering the following questions:

1. Did you co-author any publication with an author of this manuscript in the last 5 years?
2. Are you currently or recently affiliated at the same institution as an author of this manuscript? If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I did not publish with these authors in the last 5 years and also meet the affiliation criteria”. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I did not publish with these authors in the last 5 years and also meet the affiliation criteria.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal