Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nutritional Status of In-School Children and its associated factors in Denkyembour District, Eastern Region, Ghana: Comparing Schools with Feeding and Non-School Feeding Policies

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. Title: "Comparison of School Feeding and Non-School Feeding" does not seem right so suggest rephrase. You may consider "comparing schools with feeding and non-feeding policies" and go on to define what you mean by a school feeding school and a Non-feeding school.

Title has been rephrased.

Highlights of what schools on the school feeding programme and schools without the school feeding programme mean have been included in background.

2. Page 2 line 48 suggestion - phrase to read 'children on "the school" feeding programme'

Sentences on comparison have been rephrased as children in schools on or with the school feeding programme (SFP) and children in schools without the SFP.

3. Page 5 line 31. More detail needed on study design e.g. when study was conducted, school type

Study design modified

4. Page 6 line 14 you mention cluster sampling here though you said you used multistage sampling in the next paragraph on sampling. They are two different sampling methods.
This has been corrected

5. Page 7 line 11-18. It is helpful to provide some description of the data you will be collecting even though it is listed in the tables. Also suggest you change of whiles in line 16 to whereas

This has been corrected

6. Page 7 line 22: kindly indicate the maker of the scales

This has been included

7. Page 10 line 5: times and meals in sentence not so clear - rephrase

Meal has been removed so sentence now reads ‘eat 2-3 times in a day’

8. Page 10 line 24: Either you leave as "…found to be tall for their age" or "…found to be of tall stature

Corrected to read ‘found to be of tall stature or well-nourished since being taller than the expected height of a particular age means well nourished once BMI is within normal range

9. Page 14 line 45-55: improve to read better

Has been improved

10. Page 15 line 4: What is GSFP? I do not see any column for definitions and abbreviations

GSFP means Ghana school feeding programme. This has been explained in the background to the study. List of abbreviations included now after conclusion.

11. Page 15 line 40-42: Consider "…missed and irregular meals…”

Sentence has been rephrased
12. Page 15 line 25-27: it could also be affected by excessive calories from carbohydrate intake so rephrase. This was suggested as an addition explanation. I did not expect you to remove your previous statement
Corrected

13. The paper still needs some copy editing
A thorough editing has been done

14. Referencing not uniformly displayed, kindly check and conform to journal requirements
This has been addressed

15. Discretionary corrections: 1. Page 2 line 23 "on" to replace "for " 2. Page 3 line 37 suggest that you replace "which results" with "resulting in" 3. Page 4 line 30 suggest replacing 'whilst' with 'whereas' 4. Page 4 Line 36 suggest participating "in" instead of "on" 5. Page 5 line 11 suggest rephrasing as "provides the setting for evaluating the …" 6. Page 14 line 18: gendre can be retained instead of cadre. 7. Page 13 line 37; SAC could be written in full, as it is the first sentence of the discussion. 8. Page 14 line 9. Semi-rural consider Peri-urban 9. The poverty levels even in the same district are not uniform and could affect some communities more than others. This is what I meant. No need to alter discussion.

Paper has been revised

Cadre has been changed to genre (initially genre was spelt wrongly as gendre)