Reviewer's report

Title: Association of low birth weight with undernutrition in preschool-aged children in Malawi

Version: 1 Date: 24 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Reci Meseri

Reviewer's report:

Review for the article entitled

"Association of low birth weight with undernutrition in preschool-aged children in Malawi. A cross-sectional population study"

Abstract:

In methods section:

"The multivariate logistic regression models using surveylogistic were performed while controlling for six different models."

I think it would be better to write

The multivariate logistic regression models using surveylogistic were performed while controlling various confounding factors in six different models.

Background:

As such, babies who had experienced intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) in utero,.....

After intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) writing in utero is unnecessary - since it is intrauterine growth retardation.

Methods:

Demographic data and inclusion and exclusion:

In demographic data you stated that 24562 women responded your survey but after the inclusion and exclusion section we see that you only analyzed 4047 children. You have lost nearly 20000 children in the analysis because of your inclusion and exclusion criteria,
Thus,

1- Please explain your inclusion and exclusion criteria in detail

2- Add how many child you exclude in detail (for ex, the ones who didn't have birth weight were …. Children)

3- As a strength you stated that this is a nationally representative dataset but after excluding that much of cases, can you explain where do you know that 4047 children still represent your whole country? You excluded the ones who didn't have a birth weight - could they be from more deprived areas?

Study variables

Covariates

"amount of media exposure (0/1/2/3)."

Please define this variable in detail - are you asking types of media (tv, radio, computer etc.) or hours that spent on media (0/1/2/3 hours?)

A general recommendation;

Even though you clearly stated your objective as the association of LBW on malnutrition - after controlling some confounding factors - I would also be happy to see the effect of mother's education or obesity status on this association. You may consider putting a table with all the significant variables as a supplementary file.

If you did, I could not reach to the supplementary file - I am sorry if I wrote it the second time.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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