Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in repeated pregnancy among adolescents in the Philippines from 1993 to 2013

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Emmanuel Amoo

Reviewer's report:

Comment of the manuscript entitled

"Have repeat pregnancy really decreased in the last 20 years? A study of trends amongst adolescents in the Philippines from 1993 to 2013"

General Comment

1. The study is timely and academically interesting and could be of importance to stakeholders in not only in the country of study, but for other developing countries. However, the authors may need to address some conspicuous flaws in the manuscript in order to appeal to readers and meet the standard of the Journal.

Title

2. This seems too long. A short and concise title could be appropriate. In addition, the indication of 'last 20 years' and '1993-2013' could imply tautology.

Suggestions:

- Repeated Pregnancy and Births among Adolescents in Philippines (1993-2013): What Has Changed?
- Trends in repeat pregnancy amongst adolescents in the Philippines: Any change between 1993-2013?
- Repeated Pregnancy and Births among Adolescents in Philippines from 1993 to 2013. Has anything changed?
Plain English Summary

3. P4, Line 2-3, Adolescents seems to have been substituted with teenager

Definition challenge

4. There seems to be a misconception of the idea of adolescent pregnancy and teenage pregnancy or repeated pregnancy. While there have not been a consensus on age definition of adolescent, most adolescent have reached puberty whereas a teenager may not have necessarily attained that level. Therefore, the author should have treated/defined the two concepts distinctively instead of using the two concepts as meaning the same thing.

5. P5, line 34: the line may be written as: …………discussed the relationship between age and parity among Filipino adolescents,

6. P5, line 39-49: Author may need to re-check these line and present them in short concise 2or 3 sentences.

7. The plain summary should provide more information than what the author presented.

Introduction

8. The statistics on the prevalence/magnitude of adolescent pregnancy in Philippine is obscured.

9. P4, Line 5-6: The claim that Philippine is the only country with unchanging teenage pregnancy rate in the past two decades supposed to be substantiated with facts. Author should feed the readers on the proportions across few past years.

10. P4, Line 27-32: Author may refrain from claiming that no formal investigation has been conducted to assess the magnitude of repeated pregnancy in developing countries.

The following (and many more) could help to beef-up the statistics required in the introduction:

* The Philippine DHS of 2013 indicated certain rates

* The Philippine Statistics Authority also has some claims on this phenomenon.


Methods

11. Query:

- Why did author used the Philippine Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013?

- Are data available for other years? What informed the choice of these dataset? Author may also need to indicate that DHS for the country is quinquennium (i.e. conducted every five years).

12. The author needs to be cleared about the definition of the subject matter. The reasons for combining or interchangeably using adolescent, teenagers and young adult must be made known to readers. Besides, the definition of teenagers as (15-19) is misleading. What happen to age 10-14 since the author refers to only adolescents in the body of the work?


Outcome and socio-geographic measures

14. The age distribution seems not to follow any known demographic patterns (such as 10-14, 15-19, 20-24). The idea behind using 15-18, and '19-21' '22-24' seems not common. Specifically, of what relevant is the distribution as these: 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, and 23-24. These age groups can be re-grouped into 15-19, 20-24, etc (if the author desires) rather than plethora classifications. Are there specific distinctions between adolescent in age 15-16 and 17-18 or 21-22 and 23-24. Author may need to justify scientifically these age classifications or perhaps cite other studies that have used such classifications.
15. P6:1-29 & P7, 1-7: These variables can be summarised in just one or two paragraphs.

The wealth index may not necessarily be part of the adolescent variables (indices) but could be for the household and should be properly situated (Household wealth index).

16. Again, the reason(s) for the purposive selection of the three main island groups (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) is/are not known.

Author should know that generally, every action in scientific research must be justified/proven. This must be step-by-step and logically indicated at least for the purpose of 'reliability and 'replicability'.

Analysis method

The approaches adopted were clearly stated. However, the scientific justification for employing these statistical techniques were not indicated.

17. Again, the author failed to explain how the variables used for each of these techniques were measured. What computations were done to make the Dependent variable (for example) satisfied the condition for Cochran-Armitage tests, Multivariate logistic regression and even the Chi-Square. These are what readers or other researchers would want to know or learn.

Results

18. How many stages of analysis were conducted before the author would be reporting the results of the Preliminary Analysis (P10, Line 15).

Author should try to avoid overlapping P10, Line 5 (age 22-24) and Line 17-22 (age 15-24)

Discussion

19. This section may not require sub-headings. This type of dividing Discussion Section into segments can distorts the flow of communication. That may also accounts for the mix-up observed in the Strength and Limitation Sections.
* The authors may only single out the limitations while the strengths appear as part of the discussion. Normally, the strengths should be part of the contributions to knowledge.

Strengths and limitations

20. Author claim that the work is the first to report the status of repeated pregnancy and birth in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in the Asia-pacific Region is to be economical with the truth. After all, the data used in this study were extracted from DHS. Also, the earlier comment in the Introduction may suffice. It could be as far as the author knows -"The more you search, the more you see”.

21. P15, Line 46, ………….This prevents the risk of producing results effected …. should be replaced with affected,

Funding & Acknowledgements

22. The Author stated No Funding for the study but also acknowledged that the study was supported by the University of Queensland International Scholarship. Clarity may be required.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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