Reviewer’s report

Title: Childhood mortality, intra-household bargaining power and fertility preferences among women in Ghana

Version: 0 Date: 04 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Nana Dagadu

Reviewer’s report:

This article is well written overall and provides solid footing for additional research on more clear links between bargaining power and fertility preferences and sexual and reproductive health more broadly. The only major concern I have is the use of the term "uncontrolled population growth" as that may be perceived in negative terms. If possible, other phrasing (perhaps "continuing population growth" or similar term) should be used to avoid leaning towards population control language. Other comments and suggestions for minor revisions:

- p3, lines 44-50: this trend in increased TFR may also be coming from increased wealth (see "Are Children 'Normal'?" by Black, Kolesnikova, Sanders and Taylor, 2013 & "Do Family Wealth Shocks Affect Fertility Choices? Evidence from the Housing Market" by Lovenheim and Mumford, 2013)

- p3, lines 52-53: although the paper is on women's fertility preferences, the sentence should include men as well given the importance statement or else should use couples

- p4, lines 23-24: ...very little evidence existS... --> need to add "s" to exist as currently written

- p5, lines 58-59:...Following [the] Indian Ocean Tsunami... --> add "the" before Indian Ocean

- p6, lines 4-5: rewrite phrase as it's unclear

- p7, lines 29-32: ...While this variable captureS fertility preference... --> add "s" to capture; also besides no accounting for number a woman currently has, it doesn't account for the number she wants

- p10, lines 21-27: how does the 0.07 figure compare to other LMICs? might be good to include in the discussion or elsewhere

- although man's fertility preference is included on pp11-12, the article doesn't explicitly discuss the possibly confounding factor of couple dynamics or gender equality. Perhaps as the woman has more bargaining power, she can also force husband to agree to fewer children.

- p16, lines47-49: instead of "can't" spell out to match other formatting in text
- p17, ines19-20: inclusion of entrepreneurship seems to come out of nowhere without much introduction in earlier sections beyond term "empowerment"

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

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.

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/](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