Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Predictors of Stunting and Thinness among Adolescent Students in Northern Ethiopia: A Comparison to World Health Organization Standards

Version: 2 Date: 31 May 2015

Reviewer: Rina Tiwari

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Major Compulsory revisions

Question 1:
Abstract need some additional information. It is missing information why adolescents are important. Authors have missed the predictor variables and also some analysis which they have mentioned in Methodology section. Please elaborate little more about your recommendations rather than general statement.

Question 2:
First para of background add data of Ethiopian population of Adolescent. Need to rewrite the second para with some findings and if possible figures since it contains general statements only.

Question 3:
In Methods and Material section, study design and sampling technique can be merged to reduce the repetitions. Please list the predictor variables clearly.

Question 4:
Why Orthodox and Christians are merged? I do not think it is appropriate to merge.

Question 5:
Table 1 has clearly shown that family size has significant relation with the prevalence of undernutrition which is not explained in the result section.

Question 6:
Please check Figure 2 and check line 235 to 237. We do not see many girls taller than boys at the age of 10.

Question 7:
In table 1 stunting as well as thinness is more prevalent among some religious group which is not clearly discussed.

Question 8:
Very few references were used in the discussion section for factors associated with height. I think there is the need for authors to reference current studies form other developing countries although there are not from African countries.
Question 9:
Instead of writing elsewhere and other studies please write name of the countries or region and also if possible figures while you support study results with other studies.

Question 10:
Please mention the names of Authors in reference 16 instead of et al. Reference no 48 is incomplete.

Minor Essential revisions

• Few typos are noted in result section.
• Line 320 (discussion 5th Paragraph 7th line) color of font is red.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No