Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with minimal meal frequency and dietary diversity practices among infant and young children in the predominantly agrarian society of Bale zone, at southeast Ethiopia: A community based cross sectional study

Version: 0  Date: 06 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Kristine Montecillo

Reviewer's report:

Title: Factors associated with minimal meal frequency and dietary diversity practice among infant and young children at Southeast Ethiopia: A community based cross sectional study

Reviewer's Report

The manuscript aimed to identify the factors associated with minimal meal frequency and minimum dietary diversity among children aged 6-23 months in Bale Zone, Southeast Ethiopia.

1. Consider including Operational Definition Section and define the following: kebeles, woredas, Afan-Oromo, minimum dietary diversity, minimum meal frequency and minimum acceptable diet, etc.

Methodology

2. Indicate the population (N) of 6-23 months old children in the study area.

3. State why and how design effect of 2 was used in the study.

4. Indicate the inclusion/exclusion criteria for the study?

5. Check for the redundancy in the methodology.

6. Indicate the source of list of participants (e.g. National Census).
Results and Discussion

7. Consider discussing the findings in the manuscript in an order that is harmonious with how the findings were presented in the tables and figures.

8. Make sure that the percentages presented in the manuscript are the same with what is indicated in the tables.

9. Indicate the p-values in the bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis.

10. Cite the references for the possible explanations/mechanisms provided for the associations of found in the study.

11. Consider reporting the results for minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency of breastfed and non-breastfed children separately as recommended by WHO (2008).

12. Consider further disaggregating and reporting the results for minimum dietary diversity, minimum meal frequency and minimum acceptable diet of the age groups 6-11 months, 12-17 months and 18-23 months of age as recommended by WHO (2008).

13. Use another word for 'illiterates'.

References

14. Make sure only reputable journals/sources were cited or used as references.

15. Improve the limitation of the study. May include the limitations of the methods used in the study.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:
An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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/). 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