Reviewer’s report

Title: A comprehensive analysis on child mortality and its determinants in Bangladesh using frailty models

Version: 0 Date: 05 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Andrea Bernasconi Bernasconi

Reviewer's report:

The paper is well written. I suggest anyway one more review to be sure to eliminate few oversights like world health organization (line 59) instead of "World Health Organization"

Introduction

I guess that is remarkable how Bangladesh has been able to reduce its child mortality rates in few decades, unfortunately, I was not able to find in the manuscript any description of the strategy used to tackle down this issue. I deem one or two sentences will be enough to describe the fight carried out against this problem in Bangladesh.

The Introduction is pertinent, interesting and well written but in some passages I find it a bit redundant. In example: at lines 50-60 different studies like Hobcraft, McDondald, Rutstein, Mosley, Chen, D'Souza, Bairagi, Kabir are cited without giving much more information about their findings. Considering that these studies are also quite old (1984, 1985) and they are making much heavier the reading, I suggest their deletion. At the end only lines 59-62 where it is highlighted that previous studies did not consider frailty models is important.

I suggest to delete Lines 46 and 47: "Child mortality levels and its trend are supposed to be important indicators of the well-being of the population of the country". I guess this sentence is quite obvious and does not add anything more to the discussion.

Materials and Methods


Among the co-variates of the analysis: exposure to media should be better explained (what does it mean precisely?). Maternal malnutrition and working status could be considered as current temporary status (and it is not clear from the methodology how malnutrition was measured) that could not have influence on the events happened in the past and concerning the health of the child.
Discussion

Why has Sylhet worse results than Barisal division?

Conclusion

Unobserved factors at family and community level could be related to child mortality on the base of your analysis. I would like to suggest to add few sentences about what future studies could be carried out to better understand this correlation. Moreover, it will enrich your good manuscript if you could add references to the results of other studies addressing this issue (Unobserved factors).

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