Reviewer’s report

Title: Dietary diversity among school age children in Merawi town, Amhara Region, Ethiopia, 2018: A community based cross-sectional study.

Version: 0 Date: 06 Aug 2019

Reviewer: M. Nagasu

Reviewer's report:

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AOPH-D-19-00089
Dietary diversity among school age children's in Merawi town, Amhara Region, Ethiopia, 2018
Tilahun Tewabe, Msc.; Amare Belachew; Yihun Miskir
Archives of Public Health

I appreciate the opportunity to review this interesting scientific paper on the relationship between dietary diversity and some determinants in Ethiopia. I enjoyed reading the manuscript. I commend the authors for a number of strengths of their work as follows:

1. The use of appropriately sampling methods and data analysis approaches. 2. Conducted the study in the area where is far from the capital city. 3. The differences of the results about dietary diversity between this study and previous studies.

These are all important strengths of the study.

Considering these strengths, though, as I read the manuscript I found some areas in which I would have appreciated greater clarity. I believe the paper could be further strengthened by added information about:

The abstract:
1. Would you please indicate that you used "binary logistic regression" in the abstract?

The methods:
2. I suggest expanding the description of the methods in this paper. Would you please explain what questions did you apply in your questionnaire? What choices were used? For example, dietary diversity and food access scales. If it is possible, would you please put the questionnaire used as an appendix?
3. Would you please explain how you categorised the choices for analyzing the binary logistic regression model?

The results:
4. About Page 7, Line185-189, I wondered that this part should be in the methods. Because the results section should be the results only.

The discussion:
5. Would you please explain the justification you wrote, along with appropriate references, in Page 7 Line 207-210?
"The other possible justification is in Ethiopia the number of fasting days are huge, i.e. 210 days per year and in most situations children start fasting by the age of seven (during school age period). This ultimately decrease the food intake of diversified food like meat, egg, milk."

6. About Page 8 Line 211-220, would you please indicate research seasons of the references cited? Because readers would like to know in which season the references studies were conducted as you mentioned that the differences of the results between this study and the other studies would be seasonal difference.

7. I also wonder whether the differences of the results about dietary diversity would be seasonal differences only?

8. No significant strength and limitations discussed. It may be worthwhile to describe the strength and limitations in Page 8, along with appropriate references. What is the "some variables"? If the authors are able to clarify them, this should make a nice addition to the manuscript.

The Abbreviation:

9. Please add "COR"

Table 1:

10. Please add the name of the currency into the income part?

Table 2 and Table 3:

11. Would you please indicate the sample size in total at each question?

Table 4.

12. Please indicate what variables the authors put into the models? I also wonder why the model with AOR did not show the results of Education, Marital status and so on.

About overall rating and recommendation:
If it is possible, I think additional analyses about differences of sex or levels of income would be interesting to discuss the results presented here, because the results in this study were important, but very simple. This article may need major revision referring to the comments above mentioned and English correction. There are some misuse colon and semi-colon.

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:

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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

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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.

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