Reviewer’s report

Title: Proximate determinants of infant mortality in Ethiopia, 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Surveys: Results of Survival Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 17 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Jayanta Kumar Bora

Reviewer's report:

In Abstract- background should be restructure as current sentences are not strong enough. In conclusion- it should focus on policy recommendation and main finding rather than explaining all the predictors which are not required.

In Background- It is still very week and first para-2nd line is not completed sentence. Entire background should restructure with all the relevant information. Research gap and need of study is still poorly written.

In line 34- "Similarly, 10, 641 children aged 0-5, women who had given birth during the five years preceding the survey were interviewed. Thus, for this study 10, 510 infants were included (Fig. 1)". Are you sure that out of 10,641 under-five children 10,510 were 0-11 age groups? Then how many children under the group of 12-23, 24-35, 36-47 and 48-59 months? Please check it very carefully. Your analysis should based on infant not under-five children.

In descriptive results-it is not interpreted in a standard way and many places it seems explain the template use in table 1. I would suggest to explain the important findings and interpret in a standard way. Also as mentioned earlier, your analysis seems under-five children rather infant analysis. Please check the number in published DHS report and compare.

In statistical analysis- line no 59……and in the section- "Cox proportional hazards regression model results" line no 20-26 seems repetitive.
In discussion section- what are the current governmental intervention program on child health in Ethiopia and how they are performing, what are lacking, how to minimize the gap, who can involve for the child health intervention program and what should be policy suggestion found missing. Conclusion can be merge with discussion section and it should organize in a better way.

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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