Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of initiation of complementary feeding at 6 months of age and associated factors among mothers of children aged 6 to 24 months in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 11 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Prakash Shakya

Reviewer's report:

This is a cross-sectional study which aims to determine the prevalence of complementary feeding at 6 months of age and associated factors among mothers of children aged 6-24 months in Addis Ababa. It is well written and easy to understand. However, I think it has one major and several minor issues.

Major issue

The author's main argument on the novelty or need of this study in Ethiopia is its rural setting. However, the background section needs more details on socio-economic, cultural and health access related differences between rural and urban Ethiopia, and how it may affect the complementary feeding practices.

Minor issues

Background

Page 3, line 21: "poor middle income". Is this the correct/standard term? What is the difference between low-income and poor middle income?

Page 3, line 41: Please include the reason why mothers may produce less breast milk, upon introduction of complementary foods.

Page 5, line 9: "to provide a basis for an intervention programme to improve child feeding practices in this area". It sounds very broad. It is better to mention only the specific objectives.
Methods

Page 5, line 53: Please include how randomization was done.

Page 7, line 34: Remove "frequencies and proportion" from the text. It is redundant.

Page 8, line 14: Please change to "right not to participate".

Results

Why the mother`s age is not included in the regression model? It is an important predictor variable in this study.

Discussion

Page 14, line 12: Is "recommendation" the suitable word here?

Page 14, line 43: mothers` initiation

Page 16, line 4: relevant for the promotion

Page 16, line 7: It is obvious that causality cannot be inferred from cross-sectional study. No need to mention here as a limitation of the study.

Conclusion

Page 16, line 38: "In conclusion, this study suggests the importance of educating mothers on optimal feeding and care practices for their children." This conclusion or recommendation cannot be drawn from the major findings of this study. There is no evidence in this study that mother's knowledge on IYCF practices is associated with improved complementary feeding practices.

It is better to write specific conclusion based on your findings.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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