Author’s response to reviews


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Author’s response to reviews:

12 May 2019

Kathmandu, Nepal

The Editor-in-Chief,

BMC Nutrition,

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise the manuscript. Please accept herewith the revision of the following manuscript: "Determinants of stunting of children aged 0-59 months in Nepal: Findings from Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2006, 2011 and 2016".
We appreciate the valuable feedback from the reviewers, which helped us improve the manuscript. Please find below point by point response to the reviewer’s comments.

Sincerely,

Yours Sincerely,

Ramesh Prasad Adhikari, M. Phil (Corresponding Author)
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Reviewer’s report:

Probably My explanation was not clear in the previous revision, and I apologise for that.

Please check carefully the numbers throughout your manuscript. Your conclusions rely on the number provided and without more details the table seems wrong.
I will provide you some examples:

Table 2: Prevalence of stunting (<-2SD) among children aged 0-59 months as far as I understood you are providing the percentage of the number N for each row. This is incredibly confusing. Since you are not stating the actual number of children but only percentage of the subtotal.

If instead those percentage refer to the N total (e.g., 5083 for the 2006) this is even worse:

Table 2, Family size 2006:
less than 5  43.2%
5 and above  51%
why the total is not 100%?

Table 2, headship of the household
M  48.7%
F  50.9%
again the total is 99.6%

Table 2, Caste/Ethnicity
Dalit 56.5%
Muslim  56.6%
Janajati  44.9%
Etc....
the total is far more than 100%, are they mixed ethnicity?

please specify

I think that you mean: among Dalit, that are 788, the 56.5% (number not stated) showed stunting. This is really hard to interpret.

Moreover the total number of patient is 5084 (total number should be 5083)

Wealth quintile:

the total is 236.4%

So I think that you showed the percentage per single row, but again this is difficult to understand since you don't report the actual number and that the percentage of the subtotal.

Place of residence:

Urban 35.8%

Rural 51%

= 86.8%, where is the remainder 13,2%

Do you mean that the 35.8% of urban children present stunting? So the reader should not think that the two percentage refers to the same population. But you are presenting percentage of stunting among the subpopulation.

Moreover: 4465 + 619=5084 (total number should be 5083)

Access to the Toilet:

Unimproved 53.9%

Improved 36.9%

total 90.8%... and the rest?
This is a Major revision according to me.

Please check all numbers, in the present form

Responses

Thank you very much for your suggestions. Please see the below responses.

For Family size, there are a total of 1247 children in the category of “Less than 5” and out of them 43.2% are stunned whereas the remaining 46.98% are not stunned. In this table, only the percentage of the stunned children is included. Similarly, in “5 and above” family size category, there are a total of 3836 children and out of that 51% are stunned and 49% are not stunned. Since we are only reporting the prevalence of stunning, we have not included the non-stunting percentages.

Regarding the N, this is fixed and make consistence through-out the table. We also included the Note at the end of table to make reader easier to understand the table.

“Note: Only % for stunning are reported for each category. So, the total will not be 100% because for each category % of non-stunning are not included in this table.”

we also realize that it was not possible to adjust the non-stunting proportion in the same table so we create the separate three supplementary tables which include both stunting and non-stunting proportion of each years so the reader can easily understand.