Reviewer’s report

Title: Correlates of Stunting Among Under-five Children in Bangladesh: A Multilevel Approach

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2019

Reviewer: Amin Salehi-Abargouei

Reviewer’s report:

A manuscript trying to assess child malnutrition and its related factors in Bangladesh. There are a number of major and minor concerns that should be considered before its publication:

1- Methods section: It is mentioned that World Health Organization (WHO) growth standards were used to assess the prevalence of malnutrition. However, no reference is provided. Furthermore, it is better that authors explain if Z scores or percentiles were used to assess malnutrition.

2- It is stated that data on Socio-demographic and Economic status were collected. However, the methodology for collecting such data is not provided. For instance, we readers cannot understand which reference was used for categorizing children as large, very large and ….. at birth or how wealth status was measured and categorized. Please try to explain about all variables utilized in the manuscript in the methods section.

3- Table 1- Please provide the participants' characteristics based on gender and also in total population.

4- Please merge tables 3 a to c to one table. You can include variables like sex, region and … in rows and different malnutrition status in columns.

5- The manuscript suffers from poor English writing and grammar. It should be revised by a native speaker. Several grammatical and writing errors were found.

6- The multilevel method was used to assess the risk factors. Although this might be one of the strengths of this work. However, it might not be the only strength of the study compare to previous studies. I think it is better to remove the part the authors explain the multilevel modeling as a strength of the current work from the conclusion part of the manuscript.

7- The recommendations should be made based on the current study results. Please revise the conclusion accordingly.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
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?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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