

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Burden of childhood diarrhea and its associated factors in Ethiopia: A review of observational studies

Review, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Gaoussou Coulibaly

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main theme of the review.

Diarrhoea is defined as three or more loose or watery stools, or stools more frequent than usual for the affected individual in a 24-hour period. A duration of 14 days is the proposed criterion for acute or persistent diarrhea. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), diarrhoeal diseases are the second leading cause of paediatric deaths worldwide, killing an estimated 525,000 children under the age of five each year. Globally, there are approximately 1.7 billion cases of childhood diarrhoeal disease each year and diarrhoea due to infection is widespread in the developing world. In low-income countries, many of the risk factors for contracting diarrhoeal diseases are related to poor socio-economic conditions, such as lack of access to safe water and sanitation, poor hygiene practices and inadequate disposal of human waste. Diarrhoea can be linked to a wide range of intestinal bacteria, viruses and parasites.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

Strengths: This manuscript addresses issues of prevalence (indicators) and risk factors (determinants) associated with diarrhoea in children under the age of 5 living in Ethiopia. This is very important work for controlling the morbidity and mortality of diarrhoeal diseases. Any fight against a given disease begins with the control (prevalence, distribution, risk factors) of that disease. At the end of such an investigation, the results will be used to put in place an effective and efficient control strategy, or even to move from morbidity control to elimination. Furthermore, this is a Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis, which requires a great deal of effort to carry out. The author made a rigorous selection of the articles included, in order to avoid as many biases as possible.

Limitations: Nowhere did I see stratification of prevalences by sex and age groups (very important epidemiological indicators!). For such a study, it would be very interesting to have national coverage. This could, for example, elucidate the priority areas for treatment of diarrhoeal diseases. In terms of risk factors, the sex of the children was not taken into account.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors, structured in major and minor comments.

Major :

- i) Stratification of prevalence by age group and sex
- ii) Taking gender into account when determining risk factors

Minor :

- i) Please harmonise throughout the text : diarrhea/ diarrhoea. which English language is recommended by the journal ? British or American ? Please check it!
- ii) Line 27: a parenthesis is missing
- iii) Line 28 et 383: remove "s" from conclusion
- iv) Line 33: comma or semicolon?
- v) Put "continued Table 1", page 27
- vi) Put "continued Table 4", page 31,32,33,34,35,36,37

vii) Please review reference 54

viii) Please adapt and harmonise the nomenclature of the reference in accordance with the journal guideline

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

I think an effort has been made here. However, there are a few references over 20 years old!

Q 5 Does this manuscript refer only to published data? (unpublished data is not allowed for Reviews)

Yes.

Q 6 Does the manuscript cover the issue in an objective and analytical manner

Yes.

Q 7 Was a review on the issue published in the past 12 months?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the review have international or global implications?

The review has international implications.

Q 9 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

I suggest : "Burden of childhood diarrhea and associated factors in Ethiopia: systematic review and meta-analysis studies"

Q 10 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes, but Some repositioning would be necessary :

Diarrhea; Ethiopia; Risk factors; Under-five children; WASH.

Q 11 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Acceptable overall. There are a few inconsistencies.

Q 12 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 13 → Quality of generalization and summary

Q 14 → Significance to the field

Q 15 → Interest to a general audience

Q 16 → Quality of the writing

REVISION LEVEL

Q 17 → Please take a decision based on your comments:

Minor revisions.