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Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Pediatric Research
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJPR_129989
Title of the Manuscript:	IMPACT OF MATERNAL EDUCATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS ON CHILD HEALTH IN A WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY.
Type of the Article	

PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer’s comment	Author’s Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b>	This manuscript is of significant importance to the scientific community, particularly in the context of child health and public health research in West Africa. By examining the influence of maternal education and socioeconomic status on child health, the study contributes valuable insights into the complex social determinants that shape childhood health outcomes. The findings are particularly relevant for policymakers and health practitioners in low-resource settings, offering evidence that can inform interventions aimed at improving maternal and child health. Additionally, the study's focus on a specific West African context fills a gap in the literature and can help guide future research and health strategies in similar regions	Thank you
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	<p>The title of the article is generally clear and informative, but it could be refined to more precisely capture the study's focus and make it more engaging. A potential revision could be:</p> <p><b>"The Impact of Maternal Education and Socioeconomic Status on Child Health Outcomes in Edo State, Nigeria"</b></p> <p>This revision maintains the key elements of the original title while emphasizing the study's geographic focus and its specific investigation into child health outcomes.</p>	Thank you for this suggestion and it has been effected accordingly

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<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract provides a general overview of the study, but it could benefit from further detail to make it more comprehensive. Here are some suggestions for improvement:</p> <p><b>Additions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Research Objective/Question:</b> The abstract mentions the study's aim but could be more explicit in stating the specific research question or hypothesis being tested. For example, "This study investigates how maternal education and socioeconomic status influence child health outcomes in a Nigerian context."</li><li><b>Methods:</b> While the abstract mentions a descriptive cross-sectional study and the location, it would be helpful to provide a brief mention of the methodology used for data collection (e.g., questionnaire design, analysis approach).</li><li><b>Key Findings:</b> The abstract mentions a positive relationship between attitude and socio-demographic characteristics but doesn't provide more concrete results or findings. Including a brief statement of the main results, such as the relationship between maternal education, socioeconomic status, and child health outcomes, would make it clearer.</li><li><b>Implications:</b> Briefly stating the implications of the findings (e.g., how they could inform public health policy or interventions) would strengthen the relevance of the study.</li></ol> <p><b>Deletions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Minor Redundancy:</b> The phrase "A total of 60 questionnaires were distributed" could be simplified or integrated better with the methodology section to avoid redundancy and enhance flow.</li></ol>	<p>This has been effected</p> <p>This has been effected</p> <p>This has been effected</p> <p>This has been effected</p> <p>This has been adjusted accordingly</p>
<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<p>The manuscript appears to be scientifically sound in its general approach, but there are a few aspects that may require further clarification or attention for greater scientific rigor:</p> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Clear Focus on Social Determinants of Health:</b> The study investigates a well-established and relevant topic in public health, specifically the impact of maternal education and socioeconomic status on child health. These factors are recognized globally as significant determinants of child health outcomes.</li><li><b>Appropriate Study Design:</b> A descriptive cross-sectional study design is appropriate for exploring the relationship between variables like maternal education, socioeconomic status, and child health.</li><li><b>Context-Specific Insights:</b> The focus on a West African context (Nigeria) adds value to the global discourse on child health, especially given that much of the research on this topic tends to focus on Western or more developed countries.</li></ol> <p><b>Areas to Address:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Sample Size:</b> The sample size mentioned (60 questionnaires) is relatively small for drawing robust conclusions, especially in a cross-sectional study. The manuscript could benefit from discussing the sample size's limitations and how it may impact the generalizability of the findings.</li><li><b>Statistical Methods:</b> The abstract doesn't mention the statistical methods used to analyze the data. It would be useful for scientific accuracy to provide details on the analytical approach, such as whether any statistical tests were conducted to determine the significance of the findings.</li><li><b>Potential Confounders:</b> The abstract doesn't mention whether the study controlled for potential confounding variables (e.g., age of the mother, urban vs. rural settings, access to healthcare). Acknowledging or discussing how confounders were handled would improve the</li></ol>	<p>Thank you for identifying the necessary strengths</p> <p>All necessary inputs have been effected accordingly.</p>

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	<p>scientific rigor.</p> <p>4. <b>Results Clarity:</b> The abstract mentions a "positive relationship between attitude and socio-demographic characteristics" but does not specify the key findings regarding maternal education, socioeconomic status, and child health. More detailed results would enhance the scientific clarity of the manuscript.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>While the manuscript seems to address a pertinent research question and utilizes an appropriate methodology, it would be important to ensure that the study includes a larger sample size, discusses statistical methods, accounts for potential confounders, and presents detailed findings to improve its scientific accuracy and rigor.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p>	<p>The references listed in the manuscript appear to cover a broad range of related topics, including maternal education, child health, socioeconomic factors, and health behavior. However, there are some points to consider regarding their sufficiency and recency:</p> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <p>1. <b>Diversity of Topics:</b> The references cover a variety of relevant topics, such as maternal education, child health, socioeconomic status, and health care utilization, which are essential to understanding the factors influencing child health.</p> <p>2. <b>Inclusion of Key Research:</b> Some of the references, such as Balaj et al. (2021) and Amwonya et al. (2022), provide important global and regional perspectives on maternal education and child health, which are relevant to the study's focus.</p> <p><b>Areas for Improvement:</b></p> <p>1. <b>Recency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some references, such as those from 2015 and earlier (e.g., LeVine et al., 2004; Bryce et al., 2013), could be considered outdated. The manuscript could benefit from more recent studies to ensure it reflects the current state of knowledge in the field, especially since the research is taking place in 2023-2024. Consider replacing or supplementing older references with more recent studies from the past 5-10 years.</li><li>For example, the reference to "Stein R. E. K. (2024)" is current, but it would be ideal to have more recent literature, particularly studies focused on child health and maternal education in similar low-resource settings or West African countries.</li></ul> <p>2. <b>Geographical Relevance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>While some references come from sub-Saharan Africa (e.g., Amwonya et al., 2022), there could be additional studies that focus specifically on child health in Nigeria or neighboring West African countries. More localized research will help strengthen the relevance of the manuscript to its study context.</li><li>References that address health behaviors, healthcare utilization, or education specifically in Nigeria (or other West African countries) would be helpful. For example, studies that investigate the relationship between maternal education, socioeconomic status, and child health outcomes in Nigerian or similar settings would provide greater context.</li></ul> <p>3. <b>Types of Sources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The inclusion of sources like institutional reports, such as the WHO fact sheet on diarrheal diseases (reference #6), is valuable but should be balanced with peer-reviewed journal articles for scientific rigor.</li><li>Additionally, some references to websites (e.g., reference #2) could be supplemented with peer-reviewed articles, as websites may not always be considered as scientifically rigorous or reliable in the academic context.</li></ul>	<p>Thank you for identifying the necessary strengths</p> <p>All necessary inputs have been effected accordingly with recent references inputted.</p>

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	<p><b>Suggestions for Additional References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recent studies on child health and maternal education in sub-Saharan Africa</b> (particularly West Africa), which may provide more localized and contemporary data.</li><li>• <b>Papers addressing child health outcomes related to specific socioeconomic factors</b>, which might offer insights into how maternal education specifically impacts child health.</li><li>• <b>Systematic reviews or meta-analyses</b> on maternal education and child health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, providing comprehensive overviews of global trends that would be applicable to the Nigerian context.</li></ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>While the references are relevant, there is a need for more recent, peer-reviewed studies focusing on the specific context of Nigeria or similar West African countries. Ensuring that the manuscript includes the most up-to-date and contextually relevant studies will improve its scientific rigor and help position it more effectively within current research trends.</p>	<p>All necessary inputs have been effected accordingly with recent references inputted.</p>
<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>the language quality of the manuscript seems generally understandable but could benefit from some improvements for clarity, fluency, and scholarly tone. Here are some suggestions:</p> <p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Clear Communication of Purpose:</b> The study's objective is clearly communicated, which is important for understanding the focus of the research.</li><li>2. <b>Simple and Direct:</b> The language is relatively straightforward and avoids unnecessary jargon, making it accessible to a wide audience.</li></ol> <p><b>Areas for Improvement:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Sentence Structure and Clarity:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Some sentences could be made more concise or restructured for clarity. For instance, the sentence "The study also showed a positive relationship between attitude and socio-demographic characteristics since most of the women showed good attitude" could be clearer. A possible revision could be: "The study found a positive correlation between maternal attitudes and socio-demographic characteristics, with most women demonstrating favorable attitudes."</li></ul></li><li>2. <b>Grammar and Tense Consistency:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ In some parts, the verb tenses seem inconsistent. For example, the phrase "The study aims to understand the impact..." suggests a present tense, but the abstract also includes past tense descriptions like "The study was conducted." Maintaining consistent use of past tense for the description of completed research (e.g., "The study aimed...", "The study found...") would improve readability.</li></ul></li><li>3. <b>Use of Scholarly Tone:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The manuscript could benefit from more formal scholarly language in some areas. For instance, instead of "showed good attitude," a more formal construction like "demonstrated positive attitudes" or "exhibited favorable attitudes" would be more appropriate for academic writing.</li></ul></li><li>4. <b>Flow and Transitions:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Some sections, especially the conclusion of the abstract, could use smoother transitions to guide the reader through the findings and implications. For example, after mentioning the relationship between attitudes and socio-demographic characteristics, you might want to transition to the implications more naturally, such as: "These findings highlight the importance of maternal education and socioeconomic status in shaping child health outcomes, with potential implications for policy and intervention strategies."</li></ul></li></ol>	<p>All necessary inputs have been effected accordingly with recent references inputted.</p>

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	<p><b>Suggestions for Improvement:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Revise for Precision and Formality:</b> Review the manuscript to ensure that sentences are both precise and formal, eliminating vague or overly casual phrases.</li><li>2. <b>Focus on Consistent Verb Tense:</b> Ensure that descriptions of the study's methods and results are consistently in the past tense, as the research has already been conducted.</li><li>3. <b>Use Transitions Between Ideas:</b> Make sure there are clear transitions between sections or ideas in the abstract to improve flow and readability.</li><li>4. <b>Proofread for Grammar and Syntax:</b> A final proofread would be helpful to catch minor grammatical issues and improve sentence structure.</li></ol> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The manuscript's language quality is generally suitable, but it would benefit from revisions to enhance clarity, consistency, and scholarly tone. By addressing these areas, the manuscript will be better suited for scholarly communication.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>		

PART 2:

	<p><b>Reviewer's comment</b></p>	<p><b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i></p>
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><u><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></u></p>	