

### Review Form 3

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|--------------------------|--|
| Journal Name:            | <a href="#">Asian Journal of Food Research and Nutrition</a>   |
| Manuscript Number:       | Ms_AJFRN_130037  |
| Title of the Manuscript: | PREVALENCE OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND NUTRITIONAL RISK FACTORS AMONG NEWBORNS IN FAFAN AND LIBAN ZONE, SOMALI REGION, ETHIOPIA. |
| Type of the Article      | Research Article   |

#### **General guidelines for the Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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#### **Important Policies Regarding Peer Review**

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#### **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 highly significant for the scientific community as it addresses low birth weight (LBW), a crucial determinant of infant survival, growth, and long-term health. By examining the Somali region of Ethiopia, particularly the Fafan and Liban zones, it fills a critical data gap where information on LBW prevalence is limited. The study's identification of nutritional and maternal risk factors provides insights for targeted interventions, contributing to the World Health Assembly's goal of reducing LBW by 30% by 2025. These findings will guide policymakers and healthcare providers in designing culturally and regionally appropriate strategies to improve neonatal and maternal health outcomes. |   |
| <b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>   | The current title, is clear and descriptive, effectively outlining the study's scope, focus, and geographic context.   |   |

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| <p><b>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.</b></p> | <p>The background could include a brief mention of the global prevalence or burden of low birth weight (LBW) to provide broader context before narrowing down to the Somali region. LBW remains a significant public health challenge linked to maternal nutrition and household characteristics. Addressing maternal under-nutrition, promoting iron folic acid supplementation, and improving family planning services and food security are essential for reducing LBW in this region.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</b></p>   | <p>The manuscript provided appears to follow a structured scientific format, including a clear description of the study design, sampling methods, data collection, and statistical analysis. However the calculation of the sample size mentions a proportion (p) of low birth weight as 13% based on the Ethiopian Demography Health Survey (EDHS) 2016. Including the formula and demonstrating the calculation would enhance transparency.<br/>Some variables (e.g., maternal education categories) need clear definitions to ensure consistency and reproducibility.<br/>The results section lacks context or comparison with similar studies, which is essential for scientific discourse.</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>Many references appear to be dated, with some older than 5–10 years. Recent studies (published within the last 5 years) would be more relevant and reflect current research trends and practices.<br/>Including these types of references would enhance the depth and recency of the study:<br/>World Health Organization. (2021). <i>Nutrition Guidelines for Pregnancy and Lactation</i>. WHO Publications.<br/>Mekonnen, T., et al. (2022). "Prevalence and determinants of low birth weight in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review." <i>BMC Public Health</i>.<br/>Bhutta, Z.A., et al. (2020). "Effectiveness of nutritional interventions during pregnancy on birth outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis." <i>Lancet Global Health</i>.<br/>Black, R.E., et al. (2021). "The global burden of maternal anemia and interventions to reduce its impact." <i>American Journal of Clinical Nutrition</i>.<br/>Villar, J., et al. (2020). "Anthropometric markers and adverse birth outcomes: WHO Multicenter Growth Reference Study." <i>American Journal of Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</i>.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>   | <p>The manuscript demonstrates a generally good command of the English language, but there are areas where improvements could enhance clarity, readability, and scholarly presentation.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>   | <p>It would be valuable to explore the underlying mechanisms contributing to musculoskeletal morbidity and how they can be mitigated through targeted interventions or treatments.<br/>The conclusion could be enhanced by explicitly linking the findings to potential improvements in postpartum care practices and public health initiatives. It might also suggest specific areas for policy development or community outreach.<br/>If applicable, consider incorporating qualitative feedback from the women surveyed to complement the quantitative data. This can provide a richer understanding of the personal impact of musculoskeletal morbidity.</p>  |  |

**PART 2:**

|  | Reviewer's comment  | Author's comment (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) |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p> | <p><u>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</u></p> |   |

**Reviewer Details:**

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|---|--|
| <p>Name:</p>                                | <p><b>Mathanki Sutharsan</b></p>                       |
| <p>Department, University &amp; Country</p> | <p><b>Medicine University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka</b></p> |