

Review of: "Nutritional Status and Dietary Patterns of Children Aged Ten Years and Below In the Buea Municipality, South West Region Cameroon"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear authors,

This is an interesting study that tries to analyze nutritional status in children, but I have some comments.

General Comments

1. You provided the prevalence of various Anthropometric measures but since this study works with microdata it makes sense to see how many children fall into multiple categories at once. For instance, either a 2x2 (or 3x3) table that shows Stunting/Underweight/Wasting or correlation plots to see how highly correlated the metrics are to one another.
 1. This can allow us to see the “severity” of the anthropometric failure of children. My hypothesis is that children who are stunted are more likely to be underweight so specifically targeting children who have multiple anthropometric failures is a viable option for policymakers.
2. What was the motivation of selecting 10 years old as the cutoff? It seems very odd as a cutoff since very different interventions are needed for children aged 0 to 5 years and children who are older than 5 years. Additionally dietary intake of children varies drastically as the child ages.
3. Please provide the questionnaire used as an exhibit in the Supplementary File as it would be helpful to see how the questions were asked along with the interviewer manual (if there was one).
4. Instead of looking at the vaguely defined metric of “The Food Diversity Score”, consider using the internationally defined (by the WHO and UNICEF) metrics of Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) which is composed of the following sub-indicators:
 1. Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)
 2. Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF)
 3. Minimum Milk Feeding Frequency (MMFF)

More information can be found using the official WHO definitions. Additionally, please analyze this at different age groups as different ages need different caloric intakes.

Specific Comments

1. Figure 2 – What are the cutoffs for “Low”, “Middle”, and “High” because at the moment they seemed to be arbitrarily selected.
2. Correlations and P-Values — There are no scatter plots, histograms or any descriptive plots in the Supplementary data or the Main Exhibit File. Please provide more descriptive plots of the data.

Overall, this study was well-written and easy to read for a general audience. However, it needs some improvement before publication!