Peer Review

Review of: "Approaches for Measuring Socioeconomic Status in Health Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review"

Phillips Edomwonyi Obasohan¹

1. Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, Nigeria

This paper, 'Approaches for Measuring Socioeconomic Status in Health Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review,' is timely at a period when more and more socioeconomic disparities in African health research are widening. The authors fully described the framework of their reporting strategies and appeared to follow suit.

The conduct was precise and could aid reproducibility in similar studies. The images and tables are clear. However, I observed that, contrary to best practices (readers are often prompted to know what the table is all about at the beginning of it), where tables are headed on top rather than at the bottom, in this paper, the table captions are at the bottom. The author can place the table captions on top of the tables. Additionally, being a scoping review, I had expected the authors to indicate the various references for the concepts represented in Tables 4 and 5. This would enhance the ability to trace references relating to these concepts.

The paper has revealed that the asset-based wealth index is most commonly used. This is consistent with studies focusing on Africa because most of these studies interviewed women rather than the fathers of the house. Most women cannot provide the precise income of the breadwinner of the house, and coupled with the suspicion that questions on income could be used beyond research purposes, this may hinder accuracy in disclosure.

Overall, in my judgment, the paper is well-written and has addressed important concepts in public health in less developed countries.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.