

Review of: "Effectiveness of a Father-Inclusive Parenting Intervention on a Child's Diet, Early Stimulation, and Father Involvement in Childcare in Rural Malawi: A Study Protocol for a Four-Arm, Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study is good and timely. The idea of parental involvement in holistic child development from an early age is crucial for a child to be able to achieve the optimal developmental milestones. I like the randomization of the study into four arms; it helps to tease out the strengths and weaknesses in the processing of parental involvement.

However, the author leaves the reader hanging with regards to what the findings were from each arm and therefore what they will recommend to be the best approach for this community. Who should pick up this initiative and ensure continuity and sustainability?

There needs to be clear conclusions and precise, explicit recommendations to guide policy and programming.

Were the parents involved in the validation of the intervention materials? Was there going to be a framework for follow-up through monitoring and evaluation, and who would be responsible and accountable?

I therefore recommend that the authors provide a concise presentation of the study findings and recommendations based on the objectives of this study.

Publication should be done after the concerns raised are addressed.