

Review of: "Risk Factors and Predictors of Severe Acute Malnutrition Among 6-59 Months Children in Lumbini Province, Nepal: A Facility-Based Cross-Sectional Study"

Annamaria Zsakai¹

¹ Eötvös Loránd University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General comment

The manuscript studied the determining factors of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) among 6-59 months children in Lumbini Province, Nepal. The topic is of high importance since SAM and the methodology of its diagnosis are very important in the developing countries. The aims are well defined, the methods are appropriate. I suggest the manuscript for publication after a minor revision. I collected my comments in the order of the chapters of the manuscript to help the revision of the work:

Abstract

A1: "Nearly two-thirds of the participants were Madhesi/terai..." – please explain what Madhesi/terai means.

A2: Do not use abbreviations in the Abstract, please explain e.g. what Analysis of aORs is.

A3: The Abstract seems a bit long, please shorten it (for example by deleting the mentioning of SPSS, ethical approval)

A4: "This study concluded that the prevalence of SAM in Lumbini Province was found to be 34.9%." -this sentence is not clear, it is only true for the group of those children who visited the Out-Patient Therapeutic Centers (OTCs) and Nutrition Rehabilitation Home (NRH) in Lumbini Province, please correct it.

A5: "As observed from our study, household income, toilet facility, occupation, ethnicity, kitchen garden, sex of the child, mother's age at childbirth, food security access, and wealth index of the family were significant determining factors of severe acute malnutrition, ..." – this was not mentioned in the Results section of the Abstract, put this result in the Results section and delete it from the Conclusion section (how was it evidenced that these factors were determining factors?).

Result, Discussion

"This study examined cross-sectional data collected from Lumbini Province, Nepal, and intended to identify the factors as well as various predictors associated with SAM among children under the age of 5 years residing there. It revealed that the SAM prevalence in Lumbini Province was high, with various risk factors being identified, including household income, toilet facility, occupation, ethnicity, kitchen garden, sex of the child, mother's age at childbirth, food security access, and

wealth index of the family. However, only the child's age and mother's age at childbirth were observed as significant predictors of SAM among children in our targeted study site." – it should be more precisely explained what the difference between the 2 groups of predictive factors is, the bigger group and the group of age of children and the mothers' age at childbirth. Are these the factors (age of children, mother at childbirth) stronger predictors?