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"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article “Risk Factors and Predictors of Severe Acute Malnutrition Among 6-59 Months Children in Lumbini Province, Nepal: A Facility-Based Cross-Sectional Study” by K. C. Dirghayu et al. is a fairly well written scientific work that helps to better understand the determinants of Severe Acute Malnutrition in Lumbini Province of Nepal.

In terms of syntax, it is safe to say that the paragraphs are easy to read and eloquent.

There are certain points that can ease comprehension such as firstly: the title can be formulated differently by replacing 59 months (evan though it is used in scientific literature) by 5 years of age which is straightforward.

Secondly the abstract can be made shorter by shortening the results and focalizing more on the significant conclusions; in the methodology part of the abstract the software used can be omitted for example since it is clarified further along the article.

The bibliography is extensive, next to the older key references; adding more recent (from 2018 to 2023) can be good.

In the methodology, if possible add the main parts of your survey.

With your data you could have also calculated the crowding index which is significantly linked to food insecurity

The household crowding index (HCI) is defined as the total number of co-residents per household, excluding the newborn infant, divided by the total number of rooms, excluding the kitchen and bathrooms. The continuous variable can be grouped into three distinct categories: (1) ,1, (2) 1–2, and (3) .2 residents per room. The U.S. Census defines an overcrowded unit as one occupied by 1.01 persons or more per room (excluding bathrooms and kitchens). Units with more than 1.5 persons per room are considered severely overcrowded. (see BMC Public Health. 2022; 22: 1977._High prevalence of chronic malnutrition in indigenous children under 5 years of age in Chimborazo-Ecuador: multicausal analysis of its determinants_María F. Rivadeneira et al.)

In the discussion : “Similar to the finding of this study, where mother’s age at childbirth (<20 years) was concluded to be a significant predictor of SAM, another case-control study conducted here in Nepal [33] and a systematic review and meta-analysis performed by WHO had reported that maternal age below 25 years is a risk factor for severe malnutrition [34]. This is owing to the fact that mothers aged below 20 years have premature bodies and are hence at risk of giving birth

prematurely" the reason behind mothers young age and child malnourishment can be explained more (see Young maternal age is a risk factor for child undernutrition in Tamale Metropolis, Ghana_Anthony Wemakor, Humphrey Garti, Thomas Azongo, Helene Garti & Ambrose Atosona _BMC Research Notes volume 11, Article number: 877 (2018)).

In terms of format, it is highly advised to never split the same table on 2 pages; thus make smaller (no interspace between lines for example).

Overall, this key work helps to better define child malnutrition determinants in Nepal and is an extra element to solving the world puzzle of food insecurity.