

Peer Review

Review of: "Impact of Mass Distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticide Nets on Malaria Prevention in Lindi Region, Tanzania: A Quasi-Experimental Study"

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The manuscript by Mwanja et al. is a Research article that describes the impact of mass distribution of LLINs on malaria parasite rates in the Lindi Region. The findings of this research work will certainly add information regarding the role of LLINs in reducing malaria incidence.

General comment(s)

There are many issues that need to be addressed, hence major revisions before it can be accepted for publication. These include grammatical and typographical errors in the methods, results, and discussion sections as follows:

1. Methods:

What criteria were used to assign District councils into intervention and control arms/groups?

How were people living in the Control group protected from malaria transmission?

Note:

With the exception of Lindi Municipality, the councils in the control arm had higher malaria positivity rates than the intervention councils that received LLINs through mass distribution.

1. Results

i. Headings of tables should be placed above the tables, not below.

ii. The statement that the p-value was set at 0.05 should be part of the methods section, not part of the footnotes below the tables.

- iii. For table 3, it is NOT CLEAR how the mean difference of 10.42 was obtained. This should be explained.
- iv. The sentence below table 3 starting with Additionally... should be deleted since the information has already been summarized in table 3.
- v. Figure 2 shows trends in malaria positivity rates before and after mass distribution in the Lindi Region. However, the same information is presented in figure 1, hence repetition; the only difference being the types of figures, where figure 1 is a bar graph while figure 2 is a line graph.
- vi. Figure 1 shows a decrease in malaria parasite rates in both intervention and control arms, indicating that other factors apart from LLINs must have contributed to malaria reduction. Therefore, we cannot associate the malaria reduction in Lindi with the mass distribution of LLINs alone.

1. Discussions

The discussion refers to the interpretation of study findings.

The section is poorly written. The authors have just written background information and limitations of the study. The authors should have started with the aim of the study, summarizing their findings, then giving reasons for the observed trends, followed by a comparison of the findings with previous studies.

1. Grammatical, punctuation, and typing errors

There are many grammatical and typographical errors that need correction.

Examples: A text under Study Design and Setting (page 3)

- 6 district councils instead of 6 district council
- those selected areas instead of Those selected area
- The third and fourth sentences should be one sentence; therefore, the full stop between the word study and Because should be removed.

The last sentence reads:

In this study, all health facilities in the Mtama, Ruangwa, and Nachingwea District Councils of the Lindi Region that participated in the mass distribution of LLINs were assigned to the intervention group, and all health facilities in the Lindi Municipal, Kilwa Districts, and Liwale Districts of the Lindi Region that did not receive the LLINs were assigned to the control group.

district councils instead of districts council

Lindi Municipal instead of Lindi municipality

Kilwa Districts and Liwale Districts instead of Kilwa and Liwale District Councils

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.