

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 51817

Date: 23/05/2025

Title: Influence of Prenatal Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence on Neonatal Birth Weight

Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 24/05/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This study demonstrates a significant association between IPV during pregnancy and low birth weight among newborns in Cameroon. The findings highlight the importance of incorporating routine screening for IPV into antenatal care services to identify and support affected women. Early intervention could potentially mitigate adverse birth outcomes, thereby improving maternal and neonatal health.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

- **Relevant Topic:** The study addresses a critical public health issue, linking IPV during pregnancy to adverse neonatal outcomes, specifically low birth weight.
- **Study Design:** Utilization of an unmatched case-control design allows for effective comparison between mothers with LBW infants and those with normal-weight infants.
- **Sample Size:** Inclusion of 272 participants provides a reasonable sample for analysis, enhancing the reliability of findings.
- **Data Collection:** Use of pretested questionnaires based on WHO instruments ensures standardized and validated data collection.
- **Analytical Methods:** The application of bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses strengthens the validity of the identified associations.
- **Context-specific Data:** As one of the few studies from Cameroon, it offers valuable localized insights into IPV prevalence and its impact during pregnancy.

Weaknesses:

- **Generalizability:** Being hospital-based and conducted at a single referral center may limit the applicability of results to the broader community population.
- **Potential Underreporting:** Due to stigma, especially around sensitive issues like sexual violence, IPV may be underreported, possibly leading to underestimated prevalence.
- **Cross-sectional Nature:** The design precludes establishing causal relationships; it only demonstrates associations.
- **Recall Bias:** Retrospective self-reporting of IPV and childhood exposures might be affected by memory inaccuracies, affecting data accuracy.
- **Limited Exploration of Confounders:** Factors such as socioeconomic status, nutritional status, and other potential confounders are not extensively discussed, which could influence the outcomes.