

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51870

Date: 28-05-2025

**Title: MAGNITUDE OF STUNTING AND UNDERWEIGHT AMONG HIV INFECTED CHILDREN IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL SOUTH EAST NIGERIA: A PROSPECTIVE ASSESSMENT BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL INHABITANTS**

### Recommendation:

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

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

**Reviewer's Name:** Dr Aamina

**Reviewer's Decision about Paper:** **Recommended for Publication.**

**Comments** (*Use additional pages, if required*)

### Reviewer's Comment / Report

#### Abstract Review:

The abstract presents a focused and clinically relevant study addressing the intersection of HIV infection and malnutrition among children in South East Nigeria. It opens with a contextual background that establishes the importance of nutrition in managing HIV, particularly in pediatric populations. The statement on the scarcity of data in the Nigerian context effectively highlights the research gap being addressed.

The methodology is clearly outlined. The use of a prospective study design, specific age range (1–18 years), and anthropometric measurement protocols (including the use of CDC classification and a defined instrument) enhances the credibility and reproducibility of the study. The setting at a pediatric infectious disease clinic within a tertiary hospital further strengthens the clinical relevance of the findings.

The results are well-articulated, providing a breakdown of gender distribution and specific prevalence rates of malnutrition (underweight, stunting, and obesity). The comparative dimension between urban and rural settings is adequately emphasized, with quantitative data supporting observed differences. The data

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suggests a higher burden of malnutrition among rural children, reinforcing known disparities in health outcomes related to geographical location.

The language used throughout is formal and appropriately technical for a medical or public health audience. The abstract maintains clarity, focus, and coherence in its presentation. The structure logically transitions from background, to methods, and then to results, effectively summarizing the study's scope and key findings. The statistical data enhances the strength of the conclusion and adds depth to the observed trends.