

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54236

Date: 08/10/2025

Title: "A Cross-Sectional Study on Determinants of Double Burden of Malnutrition Among Women from Developing Countries of South Asia"

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: 09/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This study addresses a pressing health concern by analyzing the sociodemographic determinants of the double burden of malnutrition among women in South Asia using DHS data. It effectively highlights important associations and trends that can inform targeted nutritional policies. However, the manuscript would benefit from clarifying certain methodological aspects, improving grammatical accuracy, and expanding the discussion on policy implications.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

- Significant Public Health Issue:** The study addresses the critical and increasingly relevant issue of double burden of malnutrition (DBM) among women in South Asia, providing valuable insights into sociodemographic determinants in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
- Use of Large, Recent Data Sets:** The analysis is based on nationally representative DHS data, ensuring robustness and relevance of findings.
- Comprehensive Statistical Approach:** The employment of chi-square tests and multinomial logistic regression appropriately analyzes associations between sociodemographic variables and nutritional status.
- Clear Presentation of Results:** The manuscript effectively summarizes key findings, such as the association of increased BMI with age, urban residence, higher education, wealth, number of children, and media use, highlighting socio-economic gradients and urban-rural differences.
- Contribution to Literature:** The study adds valuable subnational and national evidence on women's nutritional status and trends over time, emphasizing the need for integrated policies.

Weaknesses:

- Limited Exploration of Dietary and Lifestyle Factors:** The study focuses heavily on sociodemographic variables but omits direct measures of dietary intake and physical activity, which are critical determinants of malnutrition.
- Cross-Sectional Design Limitations:** As acknowledged, causality cannot be inferred; longitudinal data would strengthen the findings.
- Methodological Clarity:** The recategorization of variables (e.g., wealth index, number of children) is explained briefly but would benefit from clearer justification and discussion of potential biases introduced.
- Typographical and Grammatical Errors:** Several sentences contain minor grammatical mistakes and awkward phrasing that affect readability. For example, "The data was analyzed" should be "The data were analyzed," and some sentences lack clarity.

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5. **Inconsistent Referencing Style:** References are presented numerically but lack uniform formatting, which should be standardized according to journal guidelines.
6. **Limited Discussion on Policy Implications:** The discussion could be expanded to suggest specific intervention strategies based on findings.

Recommendations for Authors:

- **Revise Language and Grammar:** Carefully proofread the manuscript to correct grammatical errors and improve sentence clarity.
- **Elaborate on Methodology:** Offer more detailed explanations of variable recategorization and statistical procedures.
- **Address Limitations:** Discuss potential biases due to the cross-sectional design more thoroughly, and consider recommending longitudinal studies.
- **Strengthen Discussion:** Connect findings to practical policy measures and identify specific areas for intervention.
- **Standardize References:** Ensure all citations follow a consistent style.