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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55408

Title: Knowledge–Practice Gap in Children’s Nutrition among Mothers of Young Children: An Urban–Rural Comparative Study

Recommendation:

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

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Mohammad Nadeem Khan

Detailed Reviewer's Report

1. General Comments

The manuscript addresses an important and relevant public health issue—maternal knowledge and practices related to child nutrition—with a comparative focus on urban and rural settings. The topic is timely, contextually relevant to India, and aligned with maternal and child health priorities. The study provides useful insights into the knowledge–practice gap, particularly highlighting better practices among rural mothers despite comparable knowledge levels. Overall, the manuscript is well structured and presents original data.

2. Originality and Novelty

The study adds value by explicitly comparing *knowledge versus practice* across urban and rural populations, rather than focusing solely on prevalence or awareness. The identification of a discordance between knowledge and actual practices, especially among urban mothers, contributes meaningful evidence to the existing literature.

3. Title and Abstract

- **Title:** Clear, appropriate, and reflective of the study objectives.
- **Abstract:** Well written and comprehensive. It clearly outlines the background, objectives, methodology, key findings, and conclusions.

Minor grammatical polishing may enhance clarity, but content is adequate.

4. Introduction and Need of the Study

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- The introduction is well referenced and logically structured.
- The justification for comparing urban and rural mothers is clearly explained using national and state-level data (NFHS-5).
- The “Need of the Study” section effectively establishes public health relevance.

5. Materials and Methods

- Study design (descriptive comparative, non-experimental) is appropriate.
- Sampling technique, sample size, tools, and statistical methods are clearly described.
- Ethical considerations are implied but explicit mention of ethical approval/reference number is recommended.
- Clarify validity and reliability testing of the self-structured questionnaire.
- Mention informed consent explicitly.

6. Results

- Results are comprehensive and systematically presented.
- Tables are detailed and statistically sound.
- Appropriate use of inferential statistics (t-test, ANOVA, Fisher's Exact test).
- Interpretation of p-values is correct.

7. Discussion

- Discussion appropriately compares findings with national and regional studies.
- Interpretation of better rural practices despite similar knowledge is thoughtful and well supported.
- References are relevant and recent.
- Include a brief explanation of possible behavioral, cultural, or community-based factors contributing to better rural practices.

8. Conclusion

- Conclusions are consistent with results.
- Practical implications are clearly highlighted.
- Recommendations for community-based interventions are appropriate.

9. References

- Adequate number of references.
- Mostly recent and relevant.
- Formatting appears consistent.

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- Ensure uniform citation style as per journal guidelines.

10. Strengths of the Study

- Clear urban–rural comparison
- Focus on knowledge–practice gap
- Strong statistical analysis
- Public health relevance

11. Limitations (Suggested to Add)

- Small sample size
- Non-probability sampling limits generalizability
- Self-reported practices may introduce response bias

12. Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval details should be clearly stated in the manuscript.