



SDI Review Form 1.5

PART A:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	MS: 2012/IJTDH/1337
Title of the Manuscript:	<i>Breastfeeding and weaning practices in urban slum, north western Nigeria</i>
Manuscript received on (Date)	
Review comment submitted (Date)	



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PART B: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part and write here 'Corrected'/ if not agreed, give suitable justifications)</i>
General comment:	This is an interesting paper that sheds light on infant feeding practices in an urban community in Nigeria. I hope that these comments will help to strengthen it.	
Specific comments:		
Title and abstract	The wording in the abstract should be changed from "colostrum dirty" to something like "belief that colostrum was dirty". Wording should also be changed from "practice EBF more" to "were more likely to practice EBF".	Corrections effected line 8 and 13
Introduction	The following article may be a useful citation when describing the excess mortality associated with lack of exclusive breastfeeding in the developing world: Jones G, Steketee RW, Black RE, Bhutta ZA, Morris SS; Bellagio Child Survival Study Group. How many child deaths can we prevent this year? Lancet. 2003 Jul 5;362(9377):65-71.	More citations included lines 21,
Review of literature (Heading may differ in the case of review paper)		
Materials & methods (Heading may differ in the case of review paper)	I am confused by the description of this study as "cross-sectional". The inclusion criteria stated that mothers must be currently breastfeeding, yet information was collected on weaning practices and on the timing of total cessation of breastfeeding. Thus it seems that the mothers were followed prospectively through time to the point of weaning. Please clarify. Would the authors provide a citation for "the formula for cross-sectional studies"?	Included in the inclusion criteria is "had stopped breastfeeding not later than one year ago" line 42. Subjects were not followed prospectively (Citation for sample size formula) Ibrahim T. Research methodology and Dissertation writing for Health



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	It would be interesting to see reasons for weaning broken down into categories of “early weaning,” “late weaning,” etc. This would allow readers to see what sources of advice are associated with early weaning.	and Allied health Professionals. Oluconger Publishers, Lagos, Nigeria. 1st edition 2009, pg 75. The reasons for weaning were not initially sought based on the timing as all the reasons did not address whether it was early or late weaning
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Results & discussion (Heading may differ in the case of review paper)	More detail is needed on the measurement of EBF. How was the variable captured? Were infants excluded from the EBF category if they have ever been given supplements? Did EBF pairs need to practice exclusive BF for a certain amount of time to be included in the EBF category? Did the authors collect information on how long each of the exclusively breastfeeding mothers practiced EBF? Wording here should also be changed from “colostrum dirty” to “perception of colostrum as dirty,” or something along those lines. When reporting how many times respondents breastfed in the past 24 hours, it might make sense to break the categories down by age of child. In line 110, what is forced feeding, and how is it distinct from feeding with a cup and spoon? In lines 114-115, the percentages of mothers with no formal education do not appear to add up correctly (75.4% and 67.4%). The percentage given on line 118 does not appear to match the information in Table 8. Please note that the WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months of age. The focus of the paper seems to be on identifying sub-optimal infant feeding practices that could be addressed by public health initiatives. In this case, it seems as if the Discussion should place more focus on factors associated with early weaning (drawing from	EBF was captured for only breast milk for six months Corrections effected line 86 This would have made sense but was difficult bringing out from the data Forced feeding-This is the practice where a child is laid on the legs of the mother with head tilted downwards and using the hands of the mother filled with liquid diet is forced to swallow the liquid. This is a common practice among African women Corrections effected lines 113-115 Corrections effected line 118 Noted Focus of the study was on weaning generally and not early or late weaning specifically
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	the additional analysis above). More information about how EBF mothers were classified (above) would also help to clarify the discussion about why EBF rates were low.	
Conclusion		
References		