



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

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| Journal Name:            | <a href="#">International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE &amp; Health</a>                              |
| Manuscript Number:       | <b>Ms_IJTDH_20499</b>                                                                               |
| Title of the Manuscript: | <b>Evaluation of feeding practices in children aged 6-23 months in southern Benin rural setting</b> |
| Type of the Article      | <b>Original Research Article</b>                                                                    |

**General guideline for Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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**PART 1: Review Comments**

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| <b>Compulsory</b><br>REVISION<br>comments | <b>Reviewer's comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Author's comment</b> (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | We would sincerely like to thank reviewers for their relevant and useful comments. Please find below the changes to the manuscript according the raised concerns.<br><br>Corrections are highlighted in yellow according to reviewers' comments in the manuscript                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                           | <b>Line 15 – Reference is required for that statement.</b>                                                                                                                                                        | Reference is included. The statement belongs the reference number 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                           | <b>Line 23 – Revise the sentence. “After two years, it is unlikely to reverse stunting occurred earlier”</b>                                                                                                      | The sentence “After two years old, it is unlikely to reverse stunting occurred earlier” is changed to “After two years, it is unlikely to reverse stunting occurred earlier” as proposed the Reviewer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                           | <b>Line 27 – Revise sentence. “In Benin, according to ..., more than two children” Two out of what?</b>                                                                                                           | The sentence is changed to In Benin, according to demographic and health surveys (DHS) 2006, more than <b>four</b> children under five <b>out of ten</b> (43%) suffered from chronic malnutrition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                           | <b>Line 27. Second sentence is out of place. Get similar evidence as the first sentence.</b>                                                                                                                      | The second sentence “the Atlantic department, the overall prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children 0-23 months is 36.3% while it reached 40.4% in rural areas” is changed to “ <b>In 2009, prevalence of chronic malnutrition in children under five was 29,9 % in urbans areas while it remained high in rural settings (40,4%)</b> ”                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                           | <b>Line 31 – Sentence should read “It is increasingly recognised worldwide ... complementary foods should be introduced to an infant after 6 months and breastfeeding continued until the age of 2 years ...”</b> | The sentence “It is increasingly recognized worldwide that timely adequate and safe complementary foods (at 6 months) with continued breastfeeding until the age of 2 years and beyond are essential to prevent infectious diseases, morbidity and mortality” is changed to “ <b>It is increasingly recognized worldwide that adequate and safe complementary foods should be introduced to infant after 6 months and breast-feeding continued until the age of 2 years and beyond in order to prevent infectious diseases, morbidity and mortality</b> ” |
|                                           | <b>Lines 15 to 26. Content came from only</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



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|                                | <b>two sources. It doesn't show scholarly work. Make sure the reference are from quite a number of sources</b>                                                                                   | We added five reference to strength Introduction section                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                | <b>Line 51 – Sentence should read “The study applied cross-sectional and evaluative designs. It was conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.</b>                       | Data collection took place from 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2014. All the preparation and data collection took place from 1 <sup>st</sup> April to 27 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014. The sentence is changed to take into account only data collection duration. “It was cross-sectional and evaluative study. <b>Data were collected from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014</b> ”. |
|                                | <b>Line 56 – It should read “The sample size ...”</b>                                                                                                                                            | The sentence is revised                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                | <b>Proofreading is required before publication</b>                                                                                                                                               | We agreed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Minor</b> REVISION comments | Line 8 - “aged” should be added to the sentence. “... in children aged 6 to 23 months ...”                                                                                                       | The sentence is changed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                | Line 8 – Methodology. The sentence can read as “Two hundred and forty children (49.16% girls) aged 6-23 months were randomly selected by cluster sampling technique ”                            | The sentence is corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                | Line 8 – Methodology. Second sentence. It should read “Data on breastfeeding and, complementary feeding, food safety and socio-demographic characteristics were collected using a questionnaire” | The sentence is corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                | Line 8 – Results. Last sentence. It should read “The overall quality of feeding practices was inadequate among children (73.90%) aged 6-23 months”                                               | The sentence is corrected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



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|                                            | Line 8 – Conclusion. Recommendation. Please, do not generalise the recommendation since this a cross-sectional study. The recommendation should be made with reference to mothers in southern Benin rural setting.                                                                                                                                                           | The conclusion is revised                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                            | <b>ethical issue- Since the study was conducted in a rural, do men (husbands) presence influence the responses the woman (mother) may give. Did the researchers get approval from husbands or significant individuals before the interviews? This is because when it comes to questioning women or mothers within their houses the husbands may demand that recognition.</b> | The answers of mothers could be influenced by the presence of husbands. But this influence should be mitigated as there were no donations (food, coupons ..) according to the responses recorded in households<br><br>Approvals from husband were demanded before questioning women. Without that it was not possible to interview mother in southern Benin rural area. We add this to ethical considerations |
| <b><u>Optional/General</u></b><br>comments |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |