

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_111639
Title of the Manuscript:	Socio-economic Correlates of Intestinal Helminthiasis Infestation in Children with Human Immunodeficiency Virus presenting in The University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu.
Type of the Article	

PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (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)
Compulsory REVISION comments		
1. Is the manuscript important for the scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)	Yes , the manuscript is important for the scientific community as it identifies significant risk factors for helminthic infestation, particularly the role of lower socioeconomic status, in both HIV-positive and negative children.	
2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The title of the article is suitable as it accurately reflects the study's focus on investigating the socio-economic correlates of intestinal helminthiasis infestation in children with HIV at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu.	
3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?	The abstract provides a concise overview of the study, including its objectives, methods, key findings, and conclusion. It effectively summarizes the main points of the research. However, there are some minor language and formatting improvements needed for clarity and readability: In the "Methods" section, it would be clearer to specify the total sample size (e.g., "a total of 140 children"). In the "Results" section, there is a minor language issue. Instead of "significantly association," it should be "significantly associated." In the "Conclusion" section, consider rephrasing "after controlling for potential confounders" to provide more context about the variables controlled for in the analysis.	
4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	Introduction – 1. Clarity and Organization: Consider restructuring your introduction for better clarity and flow. It's important to have a logical progression of ideas. You can start with a brief overview of IH and then move on to factors associated with it. 2. Citations: Make sure to include specific references for the statistics and information you've provided, such as the numbers of affected children and the data on HIV infections. This will add credibility to your manuscript and allow readers to verify the information. 3. Repetition: You mention socioeconomic factors and their impact on IH several times in different ways. Try to avoid repetition and focus on providing new insights or details in each part of the introduction. 4. Grammar and Sentence Structure: Check for grammatical errors and ensure that sentences are clear and concise. For example, "Over 267 million preschool-age children and 600 million school-age children are infested with intestinal millionths worldwide" seems	

	<p>to have a typographical error or an unclear statement.</p> <p>Study Design: In the sentence "This was a comparative, cross-sectional study which involved whereby children infected and uninfected with HIV were enrolled consecutively," it would be clearer if you removed the word "which" and rephrased it as: "This was a comparative, cross-sectional study that involved consecutively enrolling children infected and uninfected with HIV."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Sample Size Determination: While you mentioned that you used a standard statistical formula for sample size calculation, you may want to specify the formula or reference the statistical method you used. This can add transparency to your methods.3. Study Population: You have provided a detailed description of the inclusion and exclusion criteria, which is excellent. However, consider using bullet points or numbering for better readability, as follows: <p>Study Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subjects: HIV-positive children aged 18 months to 18 years attending the Paediatric HIV clinic at the UNTH Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu.• Controls: HIV-negative and healthy children attending the paediatrics outpatient clinic for routine follow-up. <p>Inclusion Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children aged 18 months – 18 years.• Confirmed HIV infection through HIV antibody or DNA polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.• Not taken anti-helminthic medication in the past three months before the study.• HIV-positive children who gave their assent or whose caregivers gave their consent for the study. <p>Exclusion Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children aged less than 18 months.• Chronically ill children, such as those with malignancies. <p>By using bullet points, you can make it easier for readers to quickly grasp the key details of your study population and inclusion/exclusion criteria.</p> <p>Overall, your methods section provides a solid foundation for understanding the study's design and population. It is important to ensure that the methodology is accurately and clearly described to allow for reproducibility and transparency in your research.</p> <p>Ethical Approval: It's important to mention the specific reference number or identifier for the ethical clearance obtained from the Health Research and Ethics Committee of UNTH, Enugu, if applicable. This can provide more detailed information for readers who may want to verify the ethical approval.</p> <p>Informed Consent/Assent: You've mentioned that informed consent/assent was obtained, which is excellent. However, consider adding a sentence that explicitly states that participation in the study was voluntary and that participants had the right to withdraw at any time without repercussions.</p> <p>Recruitment Process: While you mention that subjects and controls were enrolled consecutively, it might be beneficial to briefly describe how participants were approached and recruited. For example, were they approached while waiting for their clinic appointments or</p>	
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	<p>through other means? This can add context to the recruitment process.</p> <p>Socio-economic Classification: You've mentioned using the social classification of Oyediji [11] for parent's socio-economic classification, but you might want to provide a brief explanation or reference for this classification system. It can help readers understand how socio-economic status was determined in your study.</p> <p>Your results section is well-organized and provides clear information on the socio-demographic characteristics and risk factors associated with intestinal helminthic infestation among study participants. However, there are some minor suggestions for improvement and clarification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Table I: You've presented the socio-demographic characteristics of the study participants in Table I, but it appears there's an issue with the formatting and layout. The columns are not well-aligned, which can make it difficult to interpret. Ensure that the table columns and headings are properly formatted for better readability.2. Table II: Similar to Table I, ensure that the formatting and alignment of columns and headings are consistent and clear. Consider specifying what "p > 0.05" means for readers who may not be familiar with statistical notation.3. Tables III and IV: These tables are well-structured and provide comprehensive information. However, consider specifying the sample size for each variable or subgroup within the tables to give readers a clear understanding of the number of participants in each category.4. Statistical Significance: In Tables III and IV, you've used p-values to indicate statistical significance. Ensure that readers understand what level of significance you've chosen (e.g., p < 0.05) and why it's considered significant.5. Explanation of Variables: Provide a brief explanation of the variables tested in the logistic regression analysis (e.g., socio-economic status, area of residence, hand washing practices) to aid readers in understanding the results. <p>Discussion</p> <p>Your discussion provides a thorough analysis of the study's findings and their implications</p> <p>some additional suggestions and considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clarity and Organization: The discussion is generally well-structured and clear. To further enhance readability, you may want to use subheadings to break down your discussion into sections that focus on different aspects of your findings, such as "Prevalence of Socio-Demographic Characteristics" and "Role of Socioeconomic Status."2. Interpretation of Findings: You've effectively discussed the findings and their significance. However, consider providing more context for readers who may not be familiar with the field. Explain why the lower frequency of food shortage reported by helminth-infected individuals is noteworthy and how it relates to the overall findings.3. Comparative Analysis: You've compared your findings to those of other studies, which is valuable. To strengthen your discussion, you could explore possible reasons for discrepancies or similarities between your results and those of other researchers. This could include discussing differences in study populations, methodologies, or geographic locations.4. Limitations: It's essential to acknowledge any limitations of your study. For example, you could mention potential sources of bias or confounding factors that may have influenced the results. This adds transparency and helps readers understand the study's constraints.5. Practical Implications: Discuss the practical implications of your findings. What can healthcare providers, policymakers, or researchers take away from this study? How might these findings inform public health strategies or interventions related to helminthic infestation in HIV-positive children and the general population?6. Future Research: Consider suggesting areas for future research based on your findings. Are there unanswered questions or areas that require further investigation? Providing these	
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	suggestions can guide future research efforts in this field. Conclusion – please elaborate more	
5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?	Yes it is correct , Please verify about reporting aspect – HIV reactive or Positive , becoz worldwide HIV is reported as Reactive	
6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form. <u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u>	Sufficient	
Minor REVISION comments 1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	Needs correction, spacing, comma etc Sending the manuscript with little modifications	
Optional/General comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity and Organization: The article is generally clear and well-organized. It follows a logical structure, with clear sections for the introduction, methods, results, and discussion. However, some minor language and formatting issues need attention for improved clarity. Data Presentation: The presentation of data in tables is essential for conveying results effectively. Ensure that tables are properly formatted and labeled for easy interpretation. Minor formatting adjustments are needed in some tables. Discussion: The discussion section provides a thorough analysis of the findings and their implications. It effectively compares the study's results with previous research, adding value to the scientific community's understanding of the topic. Abstract: The abstract provides a concise summary of the study; however, some minor language adjustments and additional context in the "Methods" section would enhance its clarity. Practical Implications: While the article discusses the importance of addressing economic disparities in helminth infection, consider elaborating on the practical implications of the findings for healthcare providers, policymakers, or researchers in the field. Future Research: Suggest areas for future research based on your findings, addressing any limitations or unanswered questions that may have arisen during the study. Language and Grammar: Review the article for minor language and grammar issues to ensure its readability. 	

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (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)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)	

Reviewer Details:

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