

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Pregnancy and Childbirth
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJPCB_82163
Title of the Manuscript:	Exclusive Breastfeeding Practice and Associated Factors among mothers in Iringa and Njombe regions in Tanzania
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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:

(<https://www.journalajpcb.com/index.php/AJPCB/editorial-policy>)

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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	<p>It's a honor for me to review the manuscript entitled with "Exclusive Breastfeeding Practice and Associated Factors among mothers in Iringa and Njombe regions in Tanzania for Asian journal of pregnancy and childbirth. Please try to incorporate all of the following comments and suggestion in to your document accordingly.</p> <p>General Comments: the whole document should be corrected for grammatical error, language and flow of subheading Specific comments are the following.</p> <p>1. Abstract</p> <p>A. The aim of this study was to assess factors linked to EBF among mothers with children aged 0 to 5 months in the Iringa and Njombe regions, Tanzania.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Better to replace the word "linked" with "associated" with please ✓ Before writing the aim of the study you should write the introduction with short sentences within 1-2 lines please <p>B. Study design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ "was a descriptive cross-section study" better to write as "cross sectional study design or analytical cross sectional study design" please .because your study is not descriptive cross sectional as far as you are assessing associated factors please <p>C. Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ "regarding EBF" please don't use abbreviation in the abstract section .use full terms in all abstract section ✓ "Statistical significance was defined as a p-value of less than 0.05" was this significance level was for bivariate or multivariate logistic regression? Please clarify it <p>D. Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Please write pertinent finding of your results here .you are expected to write the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding and only significantly associated factors (either positively or negatively) with prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding. Please those factors which were not significantly associated with exclusive breast feeding such as "there was a positive association between children aged 2 to 3 months (AOR = 1.656, 95% CI = 0.577–4.757) and mothers' knowledge of the appropriate age for infants (AOR = 2.354, 95% CI = 0.186–29.728) and EBF practices. Furthermore, this study found a non-significant positive association between EBF practice and mothers who talked with CHWs about breastfeeding during pregnancy and or after birth (AOR = 2.473, 95% CI = 0.844–7.243, p > 0.05)". <p>E. Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Please try to write your conclusion depending on your research finding. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “Therefore, multiple efforts are highly recommended to promote EBF to all lactating mothers in the country, including improvement and strengthening of the ongoing EBF counseling within the health system” please rephrase this paragraph it is not self-explanatory and remove those abbreviation from abstract section as I have said earlier. <p>2. Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) is feeding a child with breast milk only, without giving the child any other food or liquid, except drops or syrup of medicines prescribed by medical personnel.” Please support with reference and rephrase it .✓ “the World Health Organization” .There are many grammatical error in your manuscript. Please write as “the world health organization” . Please put capital letter in the beginning of each section.✓ “UNICEF” please try to write full sentences first then abbreviation form of abbreviation for those abbreviations which were written for the first time in your document.✓ “Globally, the promotion of EBF practice is recognized as an effective nutrition intervention to prevent childhood morbidity and mortality” please provide reference for this sentences✓ “Despite the well-documented advantages of EBF, millions of infants are missing this potential life-saving initiative” please provide reference✓ “Tanzania's government, in collaboration with development partners, has been using different strategies to promote EBF. Among the many strategies commonly advocated are the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Initiative, World Breastfeeding Week Commemorations, and providing training to healthy facility service providers (HSP) and community health workers (CHWs) who provide education, counseling, and support on EBF to pregnant and lactating mothers.” Please provide references✓ “Iringa and Njombe are privileged to be among the regions supported by UNICEF, USAID, and other development partners on different programs promoting IYCF, including EBF promotion. Despite all the efforts deployed to promote EBF in the area, the practice has not reached the WHO recommendation. According to the Tanzania National Nutrition Survey (TNNS, 2018), the prevalence of EBF for Iringa and Njombe is 66.2% and 70%, respectively.” Please provide references✓ “with children aged 0 to 6 months in the Iringa and Njombe regions.” Please use the same age ranges of infants. In the abstract section you wrote as your objective was among 0-5 month’s old infants and in introduction section you wrote as “aged 0 to 6 months”.✓ Justification of your study is weak .was what you explained enables you to conduct this research? Please rephrase it✓ Please try to minimize the paragraphs in your introduction section to max of three by merging them together those short paragraphs <p>3. Materials and methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The study population consisted of mothers with children aged between 0 and 5??? Months during data collection.✓ Please write your study period. Within how many months you collected your data?✓ “Exclusion criteria were Mothers with children beyond the age of 5 months” why you excluded mother with children beyond the age of 5 months? As far as you are assessing EBF you should include them .so rephrase this sentences.✓ A total of 128 mothers with children aged between 0 and 5????? Please rephrase it	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Please you are expected to clearly indicate your study Sample size determination, sampling technique, and procedure(what type of sampling technique you used? How did you selected those postnatal clinics from those two regions? How did you selected those postnatal mothers from those selected postnatal clinics?✓ Please add operational definition to your methodology <p>4. Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “About 14.8% of the mothers aged between 35 to 45 years. The majority of them (77.3%) were married, 65.9% had primary education, and 99% were employed” please rephrase this sentences please✓ “Table 1: Demographic characteristics of study participants.” Please unbold it .✓ In table 1:Age group(month):2-3=52,4-5=70 and cumulative is 122 and your sample size is 128 ,what about 8 newborns? Please reconstruct your table again correcting all mistake with in this table and others please.✓ Please un bold all variables with in table one except the first line of the table.✓ Under table 2.practice of EBF: YES=101 and NO =26 and cumulative is 127. What about 1 new born status. Please correct this mistake and reconstruct your table and unbold the title of table 2 and all variables with in the table except for the first line table 2✓ There are many numerical problems in table 2.please correct all of them✓ “The majority of mothers, 67.2%, had received information about EBF from a community health worker, and about 99.9% understood that the child should be on EBF for six months. The majority of mothers never receive any breastfeeding advertisement messages from the media (Table 3).” Rephrase this paragraph again please✓ “Table 3: Knowledge of mothers regarding EBF (N = 128)” please unbold the tittle and similar correction with table 2 please.✓ “All these values were fitted into the multivariable logistic regression model to control for the effect of confounding variables. Multivariate analysis found the odds of EBF practices increased for mothers with children aged 2 to 3 months (AOR = 1.656, 95% CI = 0.577–4.757, p > 0.05) and female children (AOR = 4.969, 95% CI = 1.691–14.608, p 0.05) compared to their counterparts. Also, the odds of EBF practices were higher for the mothers who knew the correct age of EBF (AOR = 2.354, 95% CI = 0.186–29.728, p > 0.05) and those who talked with CHWs about breastfeeding during pregnancy and or after birth (AOR = 2.473, 95% CI = 0.844–7.243, p > 0.05) compared with their counterparts. When compared to their counterparts, mothers who see any EBF advertisement or announcement on television, radio, or in a magazine have a lower chance of EBF (AOR = 0.357, 95% CI =0.07–1.811, p > 0.05).” please rephrase this paragraphs and correct it and write it again. For your information if confidence interval includes 1 ,that variable is not significantly associated e.g: (AOR = 1.656, 95% CI = 0.577–4.757, p > 0.05) not significant , (AOR = 4.969, 95% CI = 1.691–14.608, p 0.05) it is significant , (AOR = 2.354, 95% CI = 0.186–29.728, p > 0.05) not significant, AOR = 2.473, 95% CI = 0.844–7.243, p > 0.05) not significant , (AOR = 0.357, 95% CI =0.07–1.811, p > 0.05) not significant ,please I strongly recommend you to correct these errors please.✓ There are many mistakes in table 4✓ The first please remove p-value of crude odds ration✓ The second please add one column for your dependent variable(EBF with its YES and NO numerical value with in the respective cell before the column of COR Please .so table 4 should be reconstructed as a new table. <p>5. Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “The multivariate analysis found that a child's age, sex, knowledge of mothers	
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	<p>on the right age for infants to EBF, and whether CHWs ever talked to mothers about breastfeeding during pregnancy and or after birth were positively associated with EBF practice in this study.” Please remove this paragraph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “The prevalence of EBF practice reported in this study was higher compared with the national EBF status revealed by the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS, 2015–16) [11] and the National Nutrition Survey (TNNS, 2018) [17] but lower than the prevalence of EBF recommended by the World Health Organization (90%) [18]. The higher prevalence reported in these two regions might be contributed by nutrition initiatives promoting optimal infant and young child feeding implemented in the areas by different development partners. Since 2004, UNICEF and other stakeholders have been implementing nutrition programs like the use of the Social Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) Kit in promoting EBF practice, complementary feeding, and the use of maternal and child health services. This result is comparable with studies done in Ethiopia [19], Nigeria [20] and India [21].” Please correct this paragraph for grammatical error✓ Your discussion concerning prevalence of EBF is inadequate. Please make more compare and contrast concerning prevalence✓ “Mothers with young infants aged 2 to 3 months were nearly two times more likely to practice EBF compared with their counterparts. Similarly, findings were also found in Kenya [22] and Ethiopia [23]. This could be explained by the fact that most mothers were not yet back at work and hence devoted more time to their newborns, including practicing EBF.” Was age of infant was significantly associated in multivariate analysis? If it is not you can’t make compare and contrast saying this variable is significant please. So revisit your variable again and make appropriate compare and contrast for all variables you made compare and contrast in the discussion section✓ The discussion section is full of mistake especially regarding associated factors with exclusive breastfeeding. I strongly recommends the discussion part to be corrected accordingly please. <p>6. Conclusion and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “The majority of mothers practiced exclusive breastfeeding, although the EBF prevalence is lower according to WHO recommendations on infant and young child feeding.” What is the recommended achievements of EBF according to WHO report? According to your research finding the overall practice of EBF was around 67.2% and that of WHO is to achieve 50% EBF BY 2025. The author expected to rewrite this sentences again in conclusion section please.✓ “The sex and age of a child, the mother’s knowledge of EBF, and the mothers’ talk to CHWs on EBF during and/or after birth were positively associated with EBF practice.” Except the sex of the newborn no any variables were significantly associated with practice of EBF, so I strongly recommend authors should rewrite this section again please.The conclusion and recommendation should be depending on your research finding and both of them should be targeted please✓ Abbreviation section and others sections were missed please see the guideline of the journal. <p>7. References (some references are old please replace them with new reference)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “S. Geneva, “The optimal duration of exclusive breastfeeding,” <i>A Syst. Rev. Geneva WHO</i>, 2001.”✓ “S. Arifeen, R. E. Black, G. Antelman, A. Baqui, L. Caulfield, and S. Becker, “Exclusive breastfeeding reduces acute respiratory infection and diarrhea deaths among infants in Dhaka slums,” <i>Pediatrics</i>, vol. 108, no. 4, pp. e67–e67, 2001.”	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ “M. S. Kramer <i>et al.</i>, “Infant growth and health outcomes associated with 3 compared with 6 mo of exclusive breastfeeding,” <i>Am. J. Clin. Nutr.</i>, vol. 78, no. 2, pp. 291–295, 2003.” ✓ “V. R. G. Bachrach, E. Schwarz, and L. R. Bachrach, “Breastfeeding and the risk of hospitalization for respiratory disease in infancy: a meta-analysis,” <i>Arch. Pediatr. Adolesc. Med.</i>, vol. 157, no. 3, pp. 237–243, 2003.” ✓ “K. Ms and R. Kakuma, “The Optimal Duration of Exclusive Breast Feeding: A systematic review. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2001.,” Who, 2002.” ✓ Please follow appropriate referencing style specialy for year,volume and page number formatting using journal guideline <p>Lastly I strongly recommend all authors to incorporate all of these comments and recommendation in to their mother document during the revision process.</p>	
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		

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?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Getu Engida Wake
Department, University & Country	Debre Berhan University, Ethiopia