

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

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| TITLE (PROVISIONAL) | Consequences of early life exposure to the 1983-1985 Ethiopian Great Famine on cognitive function in adults: a historical cohort study |
| AUTHORS | Arage, Getachew; Belachew, Tefera; Abera, Mubarek; Abdulhay, Fedilu; Abdulahi, Misra; Hassen, Kalkidana |

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

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| REVIEWER | Zumin Shi Qatar University, Qatar |
| REVIEW RETURNED | 03-May-2020 |

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| GENERAL COMMENTS | My concerns have been mostly addressed. One minor suggestion is to present dietary pattern related data as a supplement. In Table 1, it is clear that young age group had a high consumption of healthy dietary pattern. It seems to be different from other studies as the young generation usually had poor quality than the older generation. |
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Comments to the Author

- Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared':

Response: Thank you very much for your critical comments. Comments are accepted and revision have been made (page 13, line 333).

- My concerns have been mostly addressed. One minor suggestion is to present dietary pattern related data as a supplement. In Table 1, it is clear that young age group had a high consumption of healthy dietary pattern. It seems to be different from other studies as the young generation usually had poor quality than the older generation.

Response: Comment are accepted and revision have been made (page 6, line 127-128).

The reason for high consumption of healthy dietary pattern may be due to their educational status, socio economic status (Table 1). As the reviewer states, the young generation usually had poor quality data than the older generation. This is true at the normal circumstances (in the absence of exposure to early life adversaries including nutrition deprivation). Generations who had history of famine exposure may have long term impact on their socio economic status, educational status un healthy dietary pattern: (<https://academic.oup.com/ajcn/article/88/6/1648/4617114>). Moreover, dietary pattern related data is present as a supplement (Supplementary file 2).

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

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| REVIEWER | Zumin Shi Qatar University |
| REVIEW RETURNED | 24-Jun-2020 |
| GENERAL COMMENTS | My concern has been addressed properly. |