**Shah Commentary: Drop in Calorie Intake of Villagers due to stop in open defecation-IIMA Director**

Review comments:

1. The subject of nutrition and its variables is important, but this article doesn’t add to the discussion.
2. There is no clarity on what the write up is about. The topic and the content don’t match. If the topic was on what the IIMA director said, the discussion should have stayed in that space.
3. The author does not make it clear if this commentary is about the MFC discussion, the comment by the IIM director, the Swachh Bharat mission, the book by Dianne Coffey and Dean Spears or on research per se. It moves from one topic to another. It would be best to have clarity on what the author is discussing and build up the argument around that.
4. The point 3 on page gives an elaborate description of regressions but it is unclear in what context the author would like to discuss this.

The author has not read the book that was released but gives advice on how the book should be. This seems a bit of a problem because it goes into the rhetoric which he himself is advising against.

1. All in all, the letter seems to be vague, self-promotional and doesn’t add to information in a clear scientific way. It seems to be a lecture on how things should be. If that is the case, it should be labelled as such.
2. The comment doesn’t address the fact that nutrition is multi-dimensional. Directly linking it to one variable such as open defecation undermines the many other variables. Calories expenditure depends on activities as well as food intake. A drop in calorie intake could be attributed to improved lifestyles (better transport, improved health care), reduced activity or buying more expensive animal source foods, which may not offer calories but better quality proteins.

At the end of page 2 the author gives some information from a book by Coffey and Spears, quotes from it, and then goes on to say that it is ‘not under the scope of the current commentary’. Why give comments if it is not within the scope?

1. The author doesn’t give any clear argument on the statement by the IIMA director. Does the author agree or disagree? In either case the author has not presented any clear arguments in support of or to challenge this statement.

Calorie intake is a complex topic and the author doesn’t seem to have the understanding to comment effectively.

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