July 27, 2020

Department of Statistics

Shahjalal University of Science & Technology

Sylhet-3114, Bangladesh

To:

Editor in Chief –PLOS One

Subject: Submission of Manuscript

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “Association between cesarean delivery and early childhood diseases in Bangladesh”, which we hope you will consider for publication as a research article to PLOS One.

C-section is expeditiously growing in many developed and developing countries. Bangladesh also experiencing an increase in unnecessary C-section. Previous studies conducted in Bangladesh only emphasized the factor associated with C-section and did not explore the association with early childhood diseases. Thus, our objective was to investigate the association between C-section delivery and childhood diseases.

We used three latest available datasets from the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS, 2012 and 2019) and Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS, 2014). Our analyses showed that the proportions of cesarean deliveries were 19.1%, 23.3%, and 36.0%, for MICS (2012), BDHS (2014), and MICS (2019) data, respectively. In this study, we found that the risk of childhood diseases for children born in C-section was substantially higher than children in normal delivery.

Our study was wholly based on an analysis of existing public domain health survey datasets obtained from the Bangladesh Demographic BDHS 2014 and MICS 2012, 2019, which is freely available online with all personal identifying information removed. The BDHS 2014 data were reviewed and approved by the ICF Macro Institutional Review Board and the National Research Ethics Committee of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council. The MICS procedures were reviewed and approved by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNICEF. Informed consent was obtained from participants while interviewing them.

Any consideration you may be able to give this manuscript, as a research article in PLOS One will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all authors,

Md Jamal Uddin

(Corresponding Author)