

It's excellent work and well-presented, but I have some concerns as follows:

1. Abstract: Still, it's not satisfactory.

Reviewer's comment: Therefore, people neglect and refrain from proper healthcare management— why people when you talk about children?

Authors reply: Thank you for pointing out our unintentional mistake, we have corrected it in the revised text. We have made significant changes in the articulation of the abstract, and trust that the result is a significantly improved result.

Reviewer's comment: 157 NDD-affected children who attended the pediatric department of the TMSS Medical College and Rafatullah Community Hospital in Bogura between December 2020 and April 2022 took part in a cross-sectional study using a purposive sample strategy. —make this sentence shorter and no need to mention amount of data in both method and result.

Authors reply: Thank you for your comment. Corrected in the revised text.

Reviewer's comment: Furthermore, residing in rural regions is associated with---pls use either past form of verb or present form (for whole manuscript)

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text.

Reviewer's comment: youngsters- replace this word

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text.

2. Introduction

Reviewer's comment: In the modern world, neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) are becoming a public health challenge---in abstract you said that it is major global public health problem, but now your say that it is becoming public health problem?? Does it make sense?

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text.. The introduction now aligns with the abstract.

Reviewer's comment: According to DSM- V, Neurodevelopmental disorders are "a group of conditions with onset in the developmental period--in the first place, pls use full form of DSM-V once and short form of Neurodevelopmental disorders as NDDs.

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text

Reviewer's comment: Household Income Expenditure Survey in 2016, ---isn't there recent survey?

Authors reply: We have added the latest reference of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). National Survey on Persons with Disabilities (NSPD) conducted in 2019.
https://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/b343a8b4_956b_45ca_872f_4cf9b2f1a6e0/2022-06-13-15-24-ca6f018ab83c88a4db8ff51386439794.pdf

Reviewer's comment: In 2013, it was found that malnutrition accounts for 45% of child deaths worldwide each year, and A framework described by Groce et al. (2014) —old references.

Authors reply: The figure is now over 50% according to more recent sources. We have changed this in text. Thank you for pointing this out. The Groce framework is indeed 9 years old now, but it remains highly influential. We have slightly amended the language here to indicate that.

Reviewer's comment: A framework described by Groce et al. (2014) shows that malnutrition may occur in children with NDDs when there is an increased need for nutrients, increased nutrient loss, and decreased nutrient intake—check the statement

Reviewer's comment: Ref: 12 and 13—old and poor journal article

Authors reply: We acknowledge that the Pancheva Dmiitrova reference, while recent, is not a particular strong reference for this point, but the Groce article, as pointed out earlier, is in a good journal and remains highly influential. We have removed the latter and replaced it with a later and higher quality reference that makes the same point.

Reviewer's comment: The prevalence of children with cerebral palsy is quite noticeable in Bangladesh compared to the rest of the world, and they have severely impaired nutritional status [14]. —why did u write this sentence which is irrelevant (possibly).

Authors reply: Removed from the revised text

Reviewer's comment: ref 15 and 16 are 10 years back

Authors reply: The Achter et al reference is indeed 'old' but it is a rare, and relevant reference that covers the field we are discussing. Part of the reason for the current submission/paper is the paucity of research in this area. In relation to reference 16, we acknowledge the weakness of the reference and have replaced it with a more recent citation.

Reviewer's comment: Most of the scientific research exploring disabled children's nutrition has been dedicated to only CP patients, who are reported to suffer from malnutrition in 46%–90% of the cases [12, 13]. —if you tell most of the—at least use 3 references or a systematic review article.

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text

Reviewer's comment: According to Jahan et al., the development of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is 4.0 times higher among children with NDDs, and the prevalence of underweight and stunting in children with CP is 71.2% and 75.0%, respectively, and in children with epilepsy it is 75.9% and 79.4%, respectively [10]. According to Islam et al., 11.9% of children with ASD were underweight, and obesity was found in 23.3% of children [17] ---two sentence with two forms of TENSE. Grammatical error.

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text

Reviewer's comment: Children with NDDs are part of a country's population. ---definitely they are part of population, it is not scientific norms to use such statement. Please think carefully what are the research gap, then report why you are conducting the study and what's your research question. Actullay what you want to know and why?

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text

Reviewer's comment: However, a relevant, different published article was reviewed before preparing this questionnaire. ---add references what articles you followed

Authors reply: This has been reworded as the original was confusing. We hope the reworded text is now clear.

Reviewer's comment: Male babies 90 (57.3%) were more prevalent than female babies 67 (42.7%). —does this sentence mean anything? At least need sentence structure.

Authors reply: This section has now been altered.

Reviewer's comment: ---about half of the participants'67 (42.7%) gross monthly family income was <10000 Bangladeshi Taka (<101 USD). —correct the sentence

Authors reply: Corrected as “42.7% participants' gross monthly family income was <10000 Bangladeshi Taka”

Reviewer's comment: About 14 (8.9%) of children had severe wasting ($BAZ \leq -3$ SD). —after number 14, you cannot use “of” ---please follow the style, percentage (numbers)—it will be better.

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text.

Reviewer's comment: Add p vale --Children diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy exhibit a twice more susceptible to malnourished (AOR 2.39, 95% CI 0.83-6.87).

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text.

Reviewer's comment: About 14 (8.9%) of children had severe wasting ($BAZ \leq -3$ SD). About 61 (38.8%) were mild to moderately wasted ($BAZ -2.99$ to -1 SD), and 17

(10.8%) were overweighted (BAZ >2 SD). On the other hand, 65 (41.4%) of children were in good health (BAZ -0.99 to 1.99 SD), and 90 (59.3%) of the population was stunted. 29 (18.5%) of children had severe stunting (HAZ \leq -3 SD), 61 (38.8%) were mild to moderately stunted (HAZ -2.99 to -1 SD), and the remaining 67 (42.7%) had age-appropriate height (HAZ -0.99 to 1.99 SD). The nutritional status of the child is presented in Table 2—check the result and make them reader friendly.

Authors reply: Thank you for your feedback, we now corrected it in the revised text

Reviewer's comment: Don't use p value in discussion.

Authors reply: Corrected in the revised text.

Reviewer's comment: The whole manuscript is grammatically poor. I would suggest for language editing by professional one, you may add him/her in author list.

Authors reply: The whole manuscript has now been edited and checked, and an additional author Dr. Olav Muurlink was added and he has given substantial input.

Reviewer's comment: Reference: I have found very old references, pls replace them.

Authors reply: We have gone through the text and removed the older references, except in cases where they are classic/influential texts where the state of the art has not significantly changed.

Overall, use Track Change mode so that I can understand what you changed.