

Review of: "Effectiveness of a Father-Inclusive Parenting Intervention on a Child's Diet, Early Stimulation, and Father Involvement in Childcare in Rural Malawi: A Study Protocol for a Four-Arm, Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Hello,

The authors of this study aim to establish the effectiveness of a parenting program designed for low-resource settings, with potential applicability in contexts similar to rural Malawi. They found a significant benefit in child development and overall well-being by involving fathers in childcare and nutrition interventions. Understanding fathers' experiences and needs is essential for designing impactful interventions.

Key Points and Considerations:

1. The abstract lacks specific results details, including descriptive summaries, p-values, and confidence intervals (CI 95%) for the outcomes of interest. These should be provided in the main text to enhance transparency and facilitate interpretation.
2. The research team should provide information on how they conducted formative research to ensure the appropriateness of the curriculum, BCC messages, and materials. Transparency in this process is crucial for replicability and scalability.
3. The method does not specify the duration of the intervention, the time interval between group sessions, or between group sessions and home visits. These details are essential for understanding the program's implementation and feasibility.
4. It is unclear why the secondary outcome was measured only in mothers. The rationale for excluding fathers from this assessment should be clarified.
5. The research should address potential confounders, such as parental education, family size, and the relationship between parents. How were these factors considered during the analysis? Clear explanations and strategies to account for confounding variables are necessary.

Once the authors provide additional information, a thorough evaluation can determine acceptance or rejection.

Kind regards,

Farnaz Khatami

