Reviewer's report

Title: Institutional delivery service utilization in Munisa Woreda, South East Ethiopia: a community based cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 6 March 2012

Reviewer: Wubegzier Mekonnen

Reviewer's report:

Comment on the article titled “Institutional delivery service utilization in Munisa Woreda, South East Ethiopia: a community based cross-sectional study”

1. Major Compulsory Revisions

Background

1.1 What is the rationale of conducting your study in Munisa district? What value would it add other than the information we get from Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey series (2000, 2005, 2011)? What is the health service coverage in the district?

1.2 What would be the implication of this study on existing and future government policies and programs?

Methods

1.3 Why do you use design effect of two for such a study?

1.4 Is the size of Kebeles uniform? How about access to health facilities to residents of women in different Kebeles?

1.5 Are all criteria to use cluster sampling satisfied? How did you ensure this?

1.6 How did you ensure internal validity in this study?

1.7 You need to clearly define how you did your statistical analysis. Some are mentioned when you write your result which has to be moved to methods section.

Results

1.8 Distance from health facility is not portrayed in your Table 1 though you explained it in text.

1.9 Your Table 3 is partially complete. The adjusted odds ratios were not completed for most of the variables including, distance from health facility, possession of Radio or TV, Occupational status of the mother, family size and occupational status of the husband

1.10 The results section has to be re-written using odds ratio. What you wrote in the results section seems the first paragraph of a discussion section.

Discussion

1.11 How is the finding of this research related to existing policies and programs
in Ethiopia?

References
1. Authors should use softwares such as EndNote or Reference manager to write their references or follow a certain standard.

2. Discretionary Revisions
Methods
2.1 In the context of Least Developing Countries such as Ethiopia, experts advise to use skilled delivery attendance rather than facility delivery to measure access to maternal health services. Why do you prefer to study facility based delivery?
2.2 How did you define facility based delivery? Did it include delivery at health post?

Results
2.3 What is the median age of first pregnancy? In skewed age distribution the median is the best measure of central tendency.
2.4 It would be easier to comprehend if we present Figure 1 using relative frequency

Discussions
2.5 You better use the odds of delivering at health facility to ascertain the degree of association with background characteristics in the results section. In this section you need to only mention whether a certain variable has been significantly associated with institutional delivery
2.6 What are strengths and limitations of this study?

3. Minor Revisions
Methods
3.1 It is preferable to indicate a Keble is the lowest administrative unit in the country

Result
3.2 It is preferable if the percentage of small family size in Table 1 ends on the same page

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.