Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of inter birth interval among married women living in rural pastoral communities of south Ethiopia. A case control study

Version: 2 Date: 31 October 2012

Reviewer: Sibhatu Biadgilign

Reviewer’s report:

Determinants of inter birth interval among married women living in rural pastoral communities of south Ethiopia. A case control study
Zenebu Begna, Sahilu Assegid, Wondwosen Kassahun and Mulusew Gerbaba
Reviewer 1

Thank you very much for the invitation to review on this important aspect of reproductive health area. The authors raised very good argument on explaining the stated topic but need to consider the following.

There are two corresponding authors in the Ms, please clarify?

Abstract
• Need revision based on the comments below
• The result and conclusion part should be re-written again.

Introduction
• Please mention the general comment on the reproductive health situations of the area of interest.
• Please revise the link between maternal morality and fertility? Keep the coherence of the sentence.
• Do you have evidence for the statement that stated “Fertility is one of the three principal components of population dynamics that determine the size and structure of the population of a country” if so please accompanied to write a full sentence for the other components too? It is vague for the reader to capture.
• Can we summarize the content in two three/four paragraph other wise …it becomes lengthy.

Methods
• There are many international and local NGO found in Yabello town and woreda respectively. Amend it
• Please revise response rate of %5
• Define optimum birth interval and spacing as it was listed several times in this paper?
• Why the authors use a prevalence of contraceptive coverage use among control rather than other parameters to address the birth interval or spaced
consecutive births?
• What does it mean to say stratum/kebeles was determined using probability proportional allocation...or the authors want to say PPS.
• What is the significant of using different p- vale for model building? Like P-values of less than or equal to 0.05 and 0.25
• What is the forthcoming of using health extension workers for data collector as they are employed by the government?

Results
• Please mention the Odd ration with CI for Mothers whose partners’ were engaged in a daily work and make it full in every casualty that you compare?
• It seems confusing on the comparison and write up of the predictor variable Odd ratio and CI,
• It seems there are missing components for inter birth interval …duration, knowledge, attitude, and practice about birth interval among the married women? Most importantly the actual practicing and the preferred birth interval should be clearly mentioned?
• Mention a little bit about Compare birth order and inter birth interval?
• What do you think for the wider and large CI for breast feeding ?.. “Breast feeding also found to be a predictor in both the crude and adjusted analysis; however, has shown a large Odds ratio and wider CI”

Discussion
• What is the justification behind this logic…”In addition, educated women are more likely to be engaged in occupations that are not readily compatible with bearing children”. Sometimes, this is not true?
• Despite this the data clearly show that 255(78.9%) of cases and 216(69.0%) of controls had no formal education. How do you contrast your evidence?
• Is there such statement in DHS ....for which country the authors refer…Unlike the DHS 2002 data conducted in 38 of 55 African Countries?
• There are miss placing of reference and wording like This is in line with population report of 2002 in 38 of 55sub Saharan countries of Africa; women were more likely to have a next child within three years after a birth of a daughter than after a son's birth [5, 16, 20] and Please revise the whole discussion section.
• One of the paragraphs is too long to capture the idea and flow. Shorten it.

Conclusion
• Preferred to be re-written again in addressing the research questions and hypothesis drawn from their finding rather than what is commonly found in literatures.
• The aim of the study is not about under-five and maternal mortality?
• Recommendation is also away from the finding of the study. Be specific and to whom it will address?
• Nor clear about this sentence... Parents should be educated to avoid gender-based intervals and promote health benefit based intervals.

On table 2- better to put the frequency and percentage of cases and control

Reference

• Need updated and most of them they seems report..
• Please add some of the research article found in the country.

Regards

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests