Reviewer's report

Title: Why do women prefer home births in Ethiopia?

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Reviewer: Jelle Stekelenburg

Reviewer's report:

Although this study is well done and the paper is well written and touches an extremely important topic, I am afraid it is of limited interest and should not be published in this journal. The most important reason is that it does not add anything to already existing knowledge. However, the results of this study might be of interest for maternal and neonatal health care policy makers in Ethiopia. Local, national or regional journals might be interested to publish it. I sincerely hope that especially the Ethiopian authors will use the outcome of this article to influence policy makers. This paper, once again, shows that interventions targeted at improving the outcome of maternal health programmes should be directed at all factors leading to delay in seeking care, from community factors, to transportation problems, to quality of care. It also, once again, shows that previous negative experience in the formal health care system can lead to preference for home delivery the next time and, last but not least, the importance of integrating (t)TBAs in the formal health system.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.