Reviewer's report

Title: The role of Traditional Birth Attendants in urban and rural Tanzania: a mixed-methods study

Version: 4 Date: 6 November 2012

Reviewer: Sunil Chhabra

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Major Compulsory Revisions
The study provides some insight into the health seeking practices of women in urban and rural areas of the area that is not reflected in the title of the study.
The meaning of ‘traditional knowledge’ that the authors mention is not clear in the study. The role of a TBA desired by the TBA is not apparent in the study.
In sampling methods sections the actual method used is not clear. How were the women selected? What was the sampling method? Was sample size calculated?
Though it is mentioned that statistical analysis was done using SPSS, it is not visible in the manuscript.
Some of the case studies mentioned verbatim in the results section are too detailed that the reader loses interest in the paper as it becomes too lengthy. E.g. Practices….urban TBAs para 4. A summary of the findings using qualitative analysis instead would make for more useful reading
The discussion needs further improvement. The findings of the present study need to be discussed with that of other studies and the role of TBAs vis a vis SBAs may be reviewed incorporating more references.

Minor essential revisions
Results and discussion
Women …urban site
Para 4- the term ‘next hospital’- not clear
Women ….rural site
Para 1- using TBAs to be replaced by utilizing services of TBA
Conclusion- para 1 first sentence is not clear. Para5 first sentence seems incomplete.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.