Author's response to reviews

Title: Saving Mothers and Newborns in Baluchistan, Pakistan: Strengthening Community Midwives to provide high quality essential newborn and maternal care in a financially sustainable manner

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Peter O' Donovan,

I would like to re-submit a study protocol entitled “Saving Mothers and Newborns in Communities: Strengthening Community Midwives to provide high quality essential newborn and maternal care in Balochistan, Pakistan in a financially sustainable manner”

This is a mixed methods operations research that aims to document the impact of an intervention intended to support community midwives (CMWs) to establish their private practices. The intervention consists of (1) upgrading CMW clinical skills (2) providing them business-skills training and small loans and (3) generating a demand for CMW services using cellular phone SMS technology and existing women’s support groups. The proposed research aims to investigate whether CMWs enrolled in this initiative are providing the essential maternal and newborn health care to women and children living in the districts of Quetta and Gwadar, Balochistan, in a financially self-sustaining manner. Specifically, the research will investigate: (1) whether the SMNC initiative is having an impact on CMW services uptake; (2) if any increased CMW service uptake is attributable to the SMNC initiative; (3) whether the SMNC initiative will enable the CMWs to develop financially self-sustainable practices; and (4) their quality of care.

The intervention and operations research has been funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Ethics clearance has been obtained from University of Alberta Health Research Ethics Board and the National Bioethics Board, Pakistan. Proof of funding and ethics clearance is attached.

In response to request from your journal, we are

1) Re-submitting the article alone, removing the funding and ethics proofs
2) Ensuring the email addresses of both authors are included.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

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