Reviewer's report

Title: Delays in receiving obstetrical care and poor maternal outcomes: results from a national multicentre cross-sectional study

Version: Date: 17 February 2014

Reviewer: Roopa PS

Reviewer's report:

1. Major compulsory revisions: a) Methodology not clear. In the 1st paragraph on method the goal was not to establish the prevalence of near miss prospectively.
   b) In the study size: why near miss incidence between adolescence and adult population was taken to calculate the study size? as this was not the aim of the study.
   c) Reference for Box 1
   d) In results total cases were 9555, & information data not available in 839 cases. Of these how many where in PTLC, MNM & MD groups.
   e) In table 1 the n is changing and is not clear
   f) In table 3 health service accessibility the subtitles not clear like difference between problems in transportation and geographical difficulty in accessing health service
   h) Table 5, 6, 7 too elaborate & these were not the aim of the study.
   i) Is table 8 required
   j) Can few of the tables be combined so that the no. of tables can be reduced.

   b) There is no reference 16, & 17 in the text.
   c) Few grammatical errors to be corrected
   f) If the length of discussion and background could be reduced

Discretionary Revisions: a) Length of background be reduced.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests