Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with health facility childbirth in districts of Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia: a population based survey

Version: 4 Date: 6 May 2014

Reviewer: Terhi Lohela

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MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1) In the discussion, the authors state: “There has been no documented study revealing socio-economic inequities in facility childbirth utilization in Zambia.”

For example, Gabrysch et al. (Figure 4., PLoS Medicine 2011) report the association of education, household wealth and women’s relationship autonomy in community on home delivery.

Remove or modify this sentence.

2) In the discussion, the authors state: “Perceived cost was associated with increased likelihood of facility childbirth in urban areas of Mbarali and Kapiri Mposhi though reasons were not immediately clear. It is possible that the women in these areas by-passed the nearest health facility due to financial cost or concerns with quality of care and opted to deliver at facilities further from their homes.”

Clarify this statement. Based on the data, perceived higher cost was associated with increased odds of facility delivery in urban Mbarali and Kapiri Mphoshi, but why would this phenomenon be explained by by-passing the nearest facility and delivering further away from home?

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

1) In my opinion, p-values should always be presented and at least when they are statistically significant or of borderline significance. I leave this decision to the editor.

2) The manuscript could be shortened as it is quite long.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

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