Reviewer’s report

Title: ‘Born before arrival’: user and provider perspectives on health facility childbirths in Kapiri Mposhi district, Zambia

Version: 2 Date: 18 June 2014

Reviewer: Abraham Hodgson

Reviewer’s report:

The study examines user and provider perspectives on health facility childbirths in Kapiri Mposhi district, Zambia.

Using qualitative methods, it explores how users and providers perceived the low utilization of health facilities during childbirth. It discusses the perceptions and experiences of community members and health personnel on home and facility delivery and reasons for not utilizing a facility at delivery.

It concludes that trust and perceived quality of care were important and influenced facility childbirth.

Comments

This is a well written manuscript. The research question is well defined, the methods are appropriate and fairly well described but need to address a few comments raised below. The data is sound and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced. Some limitations of the work are clearly stated but need to address a few more stated below.

The authors clearly acknowledge work upon which they are building and the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. In methods section of Abstract, line 2 mentions FGDs were conducted in 2007 but in Methods section of manuscript under Sample selection and data collection sub-section, line 4 mentions 2008; also in table 1 column 1 row 1 it mentions 2008 as when FGDs were conducted – need for clarification.

2. Specify the background of the moderators that conducted the FGDs – were they health personnel and possible limitations.

3. Specify background of women attending OPD who participated in the FGD – were they women with previous home delivery?

4. Discuss in the limitations the use of health personnel to conduct some of the interviews (IDIs).

Minor issue not for publication:

Typo - Under Discussion, paragraph 3, Line 9, delete ‘the’ before sub-Saharan

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

**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.