Reviewer's report

Title: The Quality of Antenatal Care in Nepal: A population-based study using the Demographic and Health Survey data

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Reviewer: Yohannes Dibaba Wado

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The authors have selected an important topic that deserves attention. It is useful to maternal health programs in developing countries. However, it needs some minor essential revision before being accepted for publication.

Discretionary Revisions

Introduction

1. The introduction section needs to problematize the issue of quality ANC. Authors have mentioned that a positive but weak association exists between number of antenatal care visits and maternal and child health outcomes. But, no mention has been made on the effects of other quality indicators on maternal and neonatal health outcomes. This part needs to be strengthened with further evidences from the literature. Moreover, the evidences presented on the effects of antenatal care quality on maternal mortality are not adequate.

2. The last sentence from the first paragraph (introduction section) reads as follows “Nepal has a high maternal mortality ratio at 281/100,000 live births, which can be partially attributed to the low frequency of ANC”. This argument contradicts with the fact presented elsewhere in this section that ANC’s contribution to maternal mortality is rather weak.

3. The introduction section is shallow in a sense that it did not synthesize and present the existing literature on factors that influence quality of ANC. Several variables were mentioned in the results and discussion section, but not mentioned in the backgrounds.

Minor Essential revisions

Abstract

Results section: the findings on quality of ANC indicators must be included briefly.

Methods
1. Author’s stated that their analysis had adjusted for sampling design (clustering and stratification) but the type of adjustment made is not clearly mentioned in the methods section.

2. It may be important to operationally define some of the key independent variables of the study if it differs from the standard DHS definitions.

Results and Discussion

1. There are several tables presented to report findings of the study which seem fragmented and difficult to comprehend.

2. The manuscript needs to be edited for language and formatting issues.

3. The manuscript may need to state some of the limitations of the data used.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests.