Reviewer's report

Title: Home delivery and newborn care practices among urban women in western Nepal: A questionnaire survey

Version: 2  Date: 16 July 2006  
Reviewer: Edwin van Teijlingen

Reviewer's report:

General
Good to see that the authors have taken so many of the comments made by the two reviewers. The authors have expanded the text appropriately at place to give the reader more relevant (precise) information.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The manuscript needs to be checked one more time for English style and grammar.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Paper needs to be proof-read one more time. The authors have the tendency of many Nepali speakers to exclude the ‘the’ from the noun where is commonly used in English, and to include it where it is not required.

Below I have highlighted some minor grammatical improvements on page 4 (the first real page of the article), but there are more such typos in the rest of the text.

Also ‘childbirth’ and ‘grandmothers’ are one word in English.

Page 4 : This is as a result of very slow decline of neonatal mortality rate. 
Should read: 
This is as a result of a very slowly declining neonatal mortality rate.

Page 4;
2005, the infant mortality rate in Nepal was 64 per 1000 live births and neonatal mortality rate was 39 per 1000 live births [4]. In rural areas of Nepal, proportion of institutional deliveries is as low as four percent [5]. 
Should read: 
2005, the infant mortality rate in Nepal was 64 per 1000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate was 39 per 1000 live births [4]. In rural areas of Nepal, the proportion of institutional deliveries is as low as four percent [5].

Page 15
These studies reported that the proportion of home deliveries increased the farther one gets from urban areas [6, 7]. 
Should have a comma after increased: 
These studies reported that the proportion of home deliveries increased, the farther one gets from urban areas [6, 7].

Page 16
Maternal and child health workers who are identified as key birth attendants by the policy makers were not present during delivery in our study also. 
Should read: 
Maternal and child health workers who are identified as key birth attendants by the policy makers were not present at delivery in our study either.
Even in the urban areas about 15% of the mothers had delivered at home alone. Such results were reported from earlier studies in rural areas [9, 19, 20].
Should read:
Previous studies found that about 15% of the mothers had delivered alone at home [9, 19, 20].

Previous studies from Nepal, India and Bangladesh have reported the health beliefs about pregnancy and childbirth.
Should read:
Previous studies from Nepal, India and Bangladesh have reported on health beliefs about pregnancy and childbirth.

Since the services at all these facilities are paid, financial constraint may be the main reason for lack of utilization of these facilities.
Should read:
Since the services at all these facilities have to be paid for, financial constraints may be the main reason for not using these facilities.

Safe motherhood program of Nepal emphasizes on the provision of round-the-clock emergency obstetric services including transport and financial assistance.
Should read
The National Safe Motherhood Program of Nepal emphasizes the provision of round-the-clock emergency obstetric services including transport and financial assistance.

Conclusion
The sentence “Health promotion interventions are required to improve skilled attendance and hygiene during delivery” is slightly odd, if this refers to patient education of the women/families the sentence should perhaps read: “Health promotion interventions are required to improve the number of families engaging a skilled attendant and hygiene during delivery.”

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests