Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with lack of postnatal care among Palestinian women: A cross-sectional study of three clinics in the West Bank

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: BioMed Central Pregnancy and Childbirth Journal

Date: 26.6.2008

Dear Editor, Dr. Lolu da-Silva

We appreciate the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript (MS:942460291845501) to *BioMed Central Pregnancy and Childbirth*. Based on the reviewers’ helpful comments, we have made additional revisions as summarized below. We hope that the manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

**Reviewer's report**

**Reviewer:** Jos van Roosmalen  
**Reviewer's report:**

1. make clear from the affiliation of the first author that she is originally from the place added

2. correct "unassisted vaginal delivery" in "spontaneous vaginal delivery"

   **Changed**

3. correct "The postpartum (postnatal or puerperium) period" (page 4) in: "The postpartum period"

   **Corrected**

4. do not use "developed and developing countries". Instead: "low and high income countries".

   **Changed**

5. You never know whether a maternal death was avoidable: state: "25 (69%) were considered to be avoidable" (page 4)

   **We agree and have omitted this statement.**

6. Your definition of the postpartum period is 42 days (six weeks), but you again and again talk about 40 days (as is written in the bible!)

   **Changed to 6 weeks**

7. page 9. "whether woman was informed about danger signs" must be "whether the woman was informed"

   **Changed**

8. page 11 and 12: You can not "sample women"
9. page 11. Omit "columns 3 and 4" when referring to table 1

10. Omit p values from table 2

Reviewer: Susan Watt
Reviewer's report:
X Accept without further revision

Reviewer: Edwin van Teijlingen
Reviewer's report:
Minor essential

Page 2 Abstract there needs to be a comma before 'using' in "...interviewed face-to-face, using ..."

Page 5 "Although the vast majority of ... deliver in ..." should read: "Although the vast majority of ... delivers in ...".

Page 8 and various other places in the text. I stand by what I said the first time round generally doctors and midwives do not 'counsel', in medical English that is a verb used for people who are trained as counsellors. Health care professionals give advice, discuss, etc.

Changed to advice

DISCUSSION page 13 needs a reference to ". . since they were interviewed in a health care setting." (REF)

We have deleted “since they were interviewed in a health care setting” because we were not able to find a reference that examined social desirability bias specifically in health care settings.

Reference list
References 14 & 30 have typos in them.

Corrected