Reviewer's report

Title: Why are breastfeeding rates low in Lebanon? A qualitative study

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Reviewer: Upul Senarath

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1. Page 3: The following sentence is not clear.

“Whereas initiation rates vary between 63.8% [7] and 96% [8], only 58.3% of infants less than one month of age are exclusively breastfed, decreasing to 33.8% at 6-7 months and down to 27.1% at 12 months of age [9].” According to standard definitions, Initiation refers to initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth. What indicate 33.8% and 27.1% is not clear. Suggest to describe breastfeeding using the WHO indicators, (refer Indicators to assess Infant and young child feeding) and re-organize the sentence.

2. Background:

It is important to mention briefly the ongoing breastfeeding programs or supporting activities in Lebanon

3. Page 6 ‘We did either home visits or telephone calls on monthly basis for the first 6 months, and then every other month for the remaining 6 months’. Author needs to mention that information that gathered by telephone interviews were also considered as in-depth interviews. If so what limitation/difference can arise compared to face-to-face in-depth interviews

4. Findings – Pg 6 & 7:

Results of the longitudinal study have been described using two quantitative measures – continuation rates and six-month breastfeeding exclusivity. Authors should define these indicators – are they similar to the WHO standard indicators or different. (I refer to WHO indicators in Indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding). Also comparison of percentages may not be valid since the number of observations in each group is smaller.

5. Key findings from the qualitative study should be summarized, with authors’ interpretation on these key results in a paragraph.

6. Implications for practice: What are the implication for health care delivery/providers?

7. Limitations of the study should be given

8. Pg 8 Last phrase: should be corrected as first-time mother

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 declare that I have no competing interests'