Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 10 July 2011

Reviewer: Virginia Schmied

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded appropriately to most of the issues raised in the previous review.

Major compulsory revisions

There are still a few issues that need to be addressed.

What was the theoretical sampling based on – more explanation needed here

The study participants have not been described perhaps the authors did not gather enough demographic data on the participants. This is an omission, if available these need to be added. such as age, parity socio-economic status etc

Authors state that the interview process was stopped when saturation of themes was reached. Given that the study went over one year, and all women were recruited in the early months of 2008 I am not clear how this process saturation was applied. Does it mean that some women were not followed up to 12 months because there was data saturation I understood that all women who continued to feed were followed up.

My concern that the data has not been analysed in a thematic way remains.

The authors have responded to suggestions by integrating the focus group and interview data but I do not believe that the three themes identified represent conceptual or abstract labels. Again this appears to be much more a content analysis and the number of quotes could be reduced. This would leave more room for the discussion.

In my review I suggested that the authors consider headings something like: { ‘a joyful and connected experience’; ‘being a mother’ ‘its best for the baby’; ‘not enough milk’; or ‘my sister said I would not have enough milk’ ‘it makes your breasts sag’ ‘ no one tells you about the pain’ ‘ breastfeeding is tiring’ etc.

While there is now an attempt to discuss the findings, this is very brief and the extensive findings are not discussed in relation to other literature reporting women’s experience of breastfeeding.

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.