Reviewer’s report

Title: Delivery Practices and Associated Factors among Mothers seeking child welfare services in Nyandarua South District, Kenya

Version: 1 Date: 9 September 2010

Reviewer: Imran Morhason-Bello

Reviewer’s report:

8th September, 2010
The Editor,
BMC Public Health

Dear Sir,

Re: Delivery Practices and Associated Factors among Mothers seeking welfare services in Nyandarua South District, Kenya

Thank you for finding me worthy of reviewing this research effort that attempts to investigate reasons that influence choice of place of childbirth by women and the possible consequences on maternal health in the tropics. I have reviewed the manuscript using the guideline provided and the detail is as follow:

1. General Comment
a. The article is relevant to maternal health as it try to analyse the potential factors from the end-user’s perspective that determines the delivery practices within a setting. This is often neglected in policy and programming especially in developing countries, and thus, make compliance/ownership by the community very difficult. However, the way the authors presented their result appears clumsy and this makes their interpretation as well as discussion unclear for better appreciation of key issues highlighted (see details below). I also think that a summary of the tool used for interview should be included as a table to allow readers to know the context of various responses. There are grammatical and punctuation errors that would need to be addressed.

2. Abstract
a. This should be re-written in line with correction

3. Introduction
a. It will be important to add the spread of skilled birth attendants within Kenya visa vis urban and rural areas. In addition, the reader will want to know the categories of skilled birth attendants available and other peculiar trained attendants for community that do not have Doctors/Midwives – a typical challenge of many African countries
b. Is there opportunity for regular training of skilled attendant on emergency obstetric care services?
c. Could you provide a sentence about the type of health care system in Kenya? Is out of pocket or third party payment system (health insurance). How does it relate to maternal and child health services? This will ensure better understanding of your health care settings.

4. Methodology
   a. I feel the formula is well known so, the prose will suffice. I suggest you remove it.
   b. Why was sampling done on alternate day? Is there any specific reason why this strategy was employed?
   c. Is there any reference for using sociodemographic data to generate wealth score? Please provide details of which of the demographics that you used.
   d. Ethical approval: is KEMRI an acronym? If yes, please provide full name

5. Results
   a. I will suggest table 2 is added to table 1
   b. In Table 1: What is none under religion signify? Is it that they do not indicate in the column or missing data or they do not practice any religion?
   c. Is there any information on place of birth?
   d. The result should be summarized as many issues were repeated. Secondly, there is no need to be transcribing the whole information on the table as prose, this defeats the purpose of having table. Important positive or salient negative to support the research should be presented. Therefore, I suggest the result should be summarized.
   e. Could your alternate day recruitment affect your data due to volume of clinic attendance?

6. Discussion
   a. Generally, the discussion is fairly well written but, there are many complex tenses and grammatical as well as typographical errors. This will need to be addressed.
   b. Are there ways by which TBA activities are regularized?
   c. The assertion that TBA is popular because the community will like to guard their culture needs to be referenced

7. References
   a. The reference will need update

8. Verdict
   Acceptable with Major Compulsory revision

I thank you for this opportunity.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr. Morhason-Bello, I.O. (Signed)

**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:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'