Reviewer's report

Title: Infant feeding practice and associated factors of HIV positive mothers attending prevention of mother to child transmission and antiretroviral therapy clinics in Gondar Town health institutions, Northwest Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2011

Reviewer: Nyaradzai Edith Kurewa

Reviewer's report:

Infant feeding practice and associated factors of HIV positive mothers attending prevention of mother to child transmission and antiretroviral therapy clinics in Gondar Town health institutions, Northwest Ethiopia

1. The question is well defined as it is important to establish the feeding patterns in HIV programs

2. The design and methods are appropriate however there is need to describe how the sample size was calculated as it talks of a catchment area of close to 100 000 women and you do not talk of the HIV prevalence among women in the described population.

3. There is need to describe how the women were selected and the time frame use in recruiting the women into the study.

4. Standards of reporting are well observed.

5. Discussion and conclusions are well laid out but the results could have more weight if they were related to the outcomes of the index children referred to the breast feeding period described. More so the feeding patterns could also be related to the mother to child transmission rates of HIV so as to assess validity of the reported feeding patterns.

6. The EBF rates are extremely high compared to any other studies in literature especially at 6 weeks. It would be good if the authors can further qualify/define their EBF as most studies have done considering that compliance with EBF has been shown to be very poor.

7. This could also be linked to the nutritional status of the mothers and children in question.

8. Authors did acknowledge and refer to literature well.

9. Limitations are not mentioned in this study as everything is described as working well with good integration of HIV care into existing health care system.

10. Abstract is well written

11. There is need to use abbreviations ones a term is defined in full for the first time mainly in the introduction e.g. using AFASS for suitable conditions for replacement feeding.

12. There is need to mention that the EBF was for 6 months or whatever period it
was.

13. In the discussion the first paragraph is not relevant as this has been mentioned in the introduction.

14. First paragraph should summarize the key findings in the results then continue to compare findings with literature and conclude not to repeat objectives or introduction.

15. Page 9 last sentence on mixed breastfeeding is also mentioned before thus repetition.

16. Also first sentence on page 10 there is need to correct the grammar as I could not understand the meaning of it and maybe its best to say influenced rather than recommended.

The writing is acceptable but there is need to use short sentences as they are more eligible and easy to understand.

**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