Reviewer's report

Title: Beliefs and practices during pregnancy and childbirth in urban slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2012

Reviewer: zelee hill

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1. Requires a final read through as some grammatical errors.

2. Where the authors now define PNC in the text include ‘within 2 days of birth’.

3. The section on trials that have sought to influence care seeking practices (ANC, facility births and PNC) is not adequate. It now reads ‘Other research findings from South Asia and Africa suggest that community health workers (CHWs) are capable of influencing care-seeking practices [11, 16, 17]. The biggest changes occurred in behaviour related to seeking of ANC and in facility births in Hala trial [17]. The authors should check if the work from Nepal, Sylhet and Shivghar focused on increasing ANC, skilled delivery and PNC and report levels.

4. The authors confirmed that the sample for the quantitative may include children born in rural areas before migration. This either needs to be included as a limitation or the authors should report what % of the births were before migration.

5. I am still unclear about the selection of women for qualitative interview. I understand why they included pregnant and delivered women but not why they excluded nulli or prima gravidas. The authors should explain this or report it in the limitations.

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'