Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of female genital mutilation and its effect on women’s health in Bale zone, Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 3 September 2014

Reviewer: Alem Gebremariam

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions
Title: Prevalence of female genital mutilation and its effect on women’s health in Bale zone, Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study

General comments: Overall, the manuscript is important in the field, however; there are some issues which should be revised. Authors need to proof read the article. I have commented in the document few of them.

• Language editorial, for example, I tried to show some in my review
• The qualitative result needs more synthesis (summarizing) than only quoting of the participants saying.
• Limitation of the study; please put the very practical limitations and strength of your study.

Point by point response

Abstract
• Method; line 20, “comma” should be omitted, line 21 change the word “drew” to “were drawn”
• Result; please use either FGM or FGC consistently throughout your document.

Background
• Paragraph 1 line 42; change the word “catting” to “cutting” and omit the word “is”
• Please avoid using acronyms without first spelling them out in full, eg. FGM. It is not also advisable to start new sentence by acronyms like in line 94.

Methods
• Editing error like in “high land, mid land, low land”. Please change to “highland, midland, lowland”
• Please do not forget to use “comma” before the word respectively. Like line 116 and check throughout your document.
• Paragraph 2, line 123-124 “the study subject was randomly selected reproductive age women from aforementioned weredas.” What was the sampling frame you used to use simple random sampling method?
• Please would you state the reason why you use both FGD and in-depth
interviews for the qualitative study?

Is the proportion (50%) of FGM you used for your sample size calculation is an assumption or a finding of other study?

• Paragraph 5 line 153; change the word “was translate” to “had translated”

• Paragraph 6 line 157 change “Nurses” to “nurses”

• Paragraph 6 line 160, re write as “… and the supervisors had strictly followed…”

• Paragraph 7 line 164-5, the word social class is more general/non specific. How do you differentiate the social class of each participants of FGD?

Results

• Line 190 make the word “Result” plural (Results)

• Cite table 1 at the end of paragraph 1 line 196 as …(table 1).

• Paragraph 2 line 202, insert full stop after the word “single” ; line 203 delete the word “see” from the table citation.

• Line 215-217, better if you rearrange it for more clarity and shortening of the length of the sentence.

• Line 222-223; “Different communities give different reasons for the question why FGM is accepted and performed in their community.” This sentence seems as just a general concept rather than a specific result of the study. You better omit from your result and you can include in your discussion part.

• Line 244, change the word “prociders” to “procedure” check it also in line 246

• Line 250, change the word “hunds” to “hands”

• Line 253, change the word “know” to “now”

• Line 255, change the word “atleat” to “at least”

• Under the short term consequences of FGM, see the values. What does 33(6.8%) represent?

• Line 283, change the phrase “inter course” in to “intercourse’

• Line 307-308; see what you have stated about the strength of association between FGM and residence in words ( five times) and the actual AOR=3.31.

Discussion

• Line 325-6, change the phrase “higher and lower prevalence” to …”variation of prevalence”…

• Please do not write the participants saying in the discussion section. You better state the synthesis of what they said rather than writing what they have said as a quotation in discussion section.

• Line 400, please use “association” instead of the word “interaction”

Conclusions

• Please recommend to researchers any area of research which should be
investigated or issues not addressed by your study.
Tables 1: try to see the indentation of some of the variables (Religion, Ethnicity)
• Why do not you use the most common grouping of reproductive women age (5 years interval)?
• Specify the “Other values” at the footnote of your table.
• Figure 1& 2; better to include the relative frequency (percentages) of each values instead of writing the frequency (numbers) only.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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