Reviewer's report

Title: Please Understand When I Cry Out In Pain: Women's Experiences of Maternity Services During Labour and Delivery in Ghana

Version: 1 Date: 1 September 2005

Reviewer: Pirkko Kouri

Reviewer's report:

General
The study is of great importance due to the facts of high maternal deaths in Ghana and in developing countries. The statistical part gives a sound and a very realistic overall picture (to person living in high-tech country with lowest mother/child mortality rates in the world). However, to understand individual loss and tragedy this kind of research is needed. A single voice of mother should be listened by health care professionals -> who are an essential part of the whole health care service. It was very good that the data collection was done with two, each other supplementary, ways. Concept death has a great ethical value and the factors related to maternal death should be described well.

In the abstract I would change the results; first the 'positive' results, then 'negative' - > conclusion - > developmental challenges. The extracts from conversations made the text vivid. The table where factors related to important aspects was a little bit narrow, and what was the path to categorising this particular way?. The content analysis as method of categorising data is very usable and characterises more a single mother's experiences and highlightens the value of each (person) opinion. The table summerises the results and finds answers to factors women perceive as important during delivery.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached). The authors should read carefully the whole manuscript and check the theoretical part that is logical with the findings. In the text there a some writing mistakes, e.g use of space bar varies near brackets, in references the the removal of hyperlinks should be done. I would consider the key words and the order of words once more e.g.reject the word Ghana from key word list. To me terms 'labour' and 'delivery' have the same meaning = birthgiving . Key words and the title of manuscript dc not support each other. The explanatory notes to Table 1 were missing (?)text. In what part of the manuscript the Table 1 is inserted. The discussion part begins with information which should be in bacground, I would start with women's experiences.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.