Reviewer’s report

Title: Please understand when I cry out in pain: women's accounts of maternity services during labour and delivery in Ghana

Version: 3 Date: 30 October 2005

Reviewer: Christine McCourt

Reviewer’s report:

General

Comments on the revisions to this article:

The revisions made by the authors have responded well to the issues raised in my own and the other reviewers' reports. I am now satisfied that the article gives a sufficient account of the methods and of some relevant theoretical and contextual issues. It now acknowledges the existence of traditional birth attendance, and that the study focuses on perceptions of interactions rather than directly on those interactions.

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The author has responded to other reviewers’ points about the time gap between birth and interview. There are a number of studies which do, in fact, suggest that women's recall of birth events, including emotional and interactional issues, are very accurate over very long periods of time (including 5 years plus). One study (Waldenstrom - in Birth) has also suggested that while being accurate, women's level of criticism may increase over time. This is also useful, because it suggests a reasonable time interval can help to counter the 'courtesy' effect, or simply being grateful for safe delivery. While caution regarding results is always wise, I would recommend that the authors refer to some of this literature, since it supports the validity of the work.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:
none