Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring and decomposing the inequality of maternal health services utilization in western rural China

Version: 2 Date: 23 December 2013

Reviewer: Lingxia Zeng

Reviewer's report:

Overall the study is well written and clearly well crafted both scientifically and intellectually. It is helpful to understand the inequality of maternal health services utilization in western China.

There are some minor concerns:

1) Page 4, “Method” section, commonly, each woman should have 3 times postnatal visits at least according to the requirement of MCH system in China. Please give rational explanation as to select “more than two times postnatal visits” as one of maternal health services utilization index?

2) Page 8, Line 3, How much is variance contribution of the first principle component when you constructed the “wealth index”? How many items were involved in constructing the wealth index?

3) Table 1, just one decimal place is enough for displaying proportions

4) Figure 1, scales in vertical axis should be 0, 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100.

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.