Reviewer’s report

Title: Umbilical cord care in Ethiopia and implications for behavior change: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 28 October 2013

Reviewer: Abdul Wajid

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Reference is needed at the end of the first paragraph of Methods.
2. Definitions of TBAs and HEWs should be provided, their required education, training and experience etc.
3. The author mentions about before hand determination of sample size, how sample size determination was accomplished?
4. Description of Table 1 should be moved to Results section.
5. Limitations of study should be moved to after the Discussion/Conclusions.
6. Was pretesting carried out before the final implementation of the IDI task? How and where was it carried out?

Results:
7. More quotes should be added on the Perspective, especially representing all geographic areas from where respondents were sampled; similarly, quotes from different types of respondent should be added.

Discussion:
8. Discussion needs to be expanded; instead of describing and repeating results, the findings of the study should be compared with other studies?
9. Present study findings should be narrated how much they help in responding to the questions?

Conclusions:
10. Again, repetition of the results. It should be dealt with a few sentences which answer to the research questions.
11. English language needs to be improved-at some places different tenses have been used, at other places other editorial improvements are required. A good editing task may improve the document.

References:
12. Reference 14 in reference list needs to be added correctly.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The subtitle Methods comes under Methodology. Can Methods be replaced with some other word/terminology?
2. Could mothers’ selection be carried out by parity and SES as well?
3. How was the authenticity of responses assessed, please elaborate further?
4. Please elaborate trustworthiness of data in a few sentences.
5. Please state the average time of interview and the contents of interview guide.

Results:
6. What was the frequency of using a razor, few times, commonly, more frequently etc? Was any other cutting instrument used?
7. Under application material, butter is mentioned, was any other material applied? Source of obtaining these materials should go to the Discussion section. In the second para, statements about caretakers up to the end of the para should go to the Discussion section. In the third para, some results are presented in parentheses, it is better a uniform style of results presentation should be used.
8. Under cord related risks and infections, the opening sentence of the second para should be moved to methodology section.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Please state how much these findings represent the overall practice in the country/region. How much can you apply these findings to other pockets of the country?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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'.