Author’s response to reviews

Title: Joint Special issue,[E.15]: Filling the Gaps in Ghana: Midwifery Tutors’ Capacity and Willingness to Teach Contraception, Post-abortion Care, and Legal Pregnancy Termination

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Author’s response to reviews:

The managing Editor
Human Resources for Health Journal
World Health Organisation

Dear Sir/madam

Manuscript: Filling the Gaps in Ghana: Midwifery Tutor Capacity and Willingness to Teach Contraception, Post-abortion Care and Legal Pregnancy Termination

Thank you for the comments on the manuscript. The title of the manuscript has been revised. We have addressed all the issues raised by the two reviewers. We have worked on all the concerns on editorial. We have also addressed the major concerns raised by the reviewers. The major ones are as indicated below:

Reviewer 1 (Nkowane)

   Title: “Filling the gaps in Ghana: Midwifery Tutor Capacity and propensity to Teach Contraception, Post-abortion Care, and Legal Pregnancy Termination”

   The title does not fit well in the objective of the study “This study is part of a broader agenda to examine opportunities and barriers to legal termination (TOP) and task-shifting post-abortion care to mid-level providers.” This needs to be clarified.

   The objectives have been reviewed. Some additions have been made and explained on page 3, paragraph 4.

   According to the methodology, the intentions were to review the curriculum and not the knowledge of tutors. This is not clear.

   The whole method section has been reviewed. The intention is actually to assess the knowledge of tutors and the content of their training curriculum.
There are some comparison issues. If about 500-600 midwives graduate each year, how come there are only 3,379 in the whole country? If there are issues of mass migration they are not fully explained in the article.

This has been on page 2, paragraph 4(last paragraph): Despite the number of midwives who pass out of the schools, few midwives are available to provide reproductive health needs in the public sector largely due to brain-drain.

The methods seem to be a problem. It is indicated that the research included part-time tutors who are they? It is not clear why they were particularly of interest to the study. It has been indicated that only 70 completed the questionnaire…this means that the response rate is less than 50%, thus brings in the question of the value of the study questionnaire. It is also not indicated who the non respondents were. Score not indicated.

As explained above, the method section has been reviewed.

Method: Questionnaire: Questions asked do not relate to the objectives. It is not clear whether the pre-service training is for tutors or midwifery students or reviewed training of tutors. The subsections do not reflect questions and how the curriculum information were obtained because it. It is not evident what the curriculum omits in standard midwifery curriculum

The subsections have been revised. This study reviewed the content of pre-service training of the tutors and the analysis was based on responses received from the tutors.

All the minor essentials have been addressed.

Reviewer 2 (Dr Philomena Nyarko)

Most of the comments were based largely on editorial and a few major issues. All the issues have been addressed.

The referencing system has been modified. We have adopted a consistent method of referencing.

1. On the literature, at the time of this study, there had not been any study conducted to comprehensively explore midwifery tutors' knowledge concerning CAC, their ability and willingness to teach topics on abortion.

2. The methods section has also been revised appropriately.

3. The results section has also been revised