Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 4 August 2009

Reviewer: Mwansa Annette Nkowane

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. 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.

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

3. 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.

4. Methods: The method 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.

5. 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

Minor Essential Revisions

1. It has to be clarified, whether midwives are responsible for monitoring the quality of abortion or they themselves are to provide quality care on abortion, levels of responsibilities need to be specified

2. Some terminology not clear. For example post abortion care needs to be defined. Emergency uterine evacuation seems to be mixed up with abortion. An explanation is required does safe abortion care imply legal condition for safe abortion? Anyone who has had an abortion should be provided with care.

3. Safe uterine evacuation may not only relate to abortion. Please clarify
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests