Reviewer's report

Title: Drivers and Deterrents of Facility Delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 27 April 2013

Reviewer: PAMELA MARTEY

Reviewer's report:

This work deals with the factors that drive and deter the use of facility delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is a review of existing literature.

It is a very important issue for women and healthcare officials in developing countries. It informs budgeting and allocation of resources. The review also provides easy resource materials for researchers.

It is well written, easily readable and gives a balance assessment of the material.

However, there are a few points to be looked at:

1. Discretionary Revision:
Discussion, third paragraph, last sentence: "And while socioeconomic status is generally seen as universally important to facility-based delivery rates, why does it appear to be less important in countries with higher literacy rates?." This sentence does not read well.

2. Minor essential revision:
Discussion, paragraph 5, line 8: "For example, in this review 11 studies relying upon household data found that antenatal care use, frequency, and perceived quality is associated with a greater likelihood of facility-based delivery". The 'is' in this sentence should be replaced with 'are'.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

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.