Reviewer's report

Title: How decision for maternal care is made in two rural medical districts of Burkina Faso? a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 28 December 2012

Reviewer: Roger ZERBO

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer comments #

Title: How decision for maternal care is made in two rural medical districts of Burkina Faso? a qualitative study

Background

This paper investigates an interesting and real problem in the context of Burkina Faso: the mother-mortality. But in the introduction, the authors have not mentioned the studies made in Burkina Faso on the same topic. In addition many programs have been initiated through the national political health and your article does not evoke them. It will be useful to quote such programs even if they are not operated today. Another problem is the fact that the link between economic and health services accessibility for the women is not clearly exposed in the introduction when it is largely comment in the text.

We do not see in the text a presentation of institutions and the description of the kind of collaboration with the specification of the role of each actor into the Research-Action processes. What is the role of the agents? Financial support sources? Who wait for results and how these one have been used? It will be helpful if the authors list all these informations in the perspective of efficient analyzes, since the study spread out in 2006.

Which are the statistics on motherly mortality and childbirth at home nowadays? How can be the contribution of your works for the objectives 4 and 5 of OMD by 2015?

Methods

Specify the instruction level and the profile of the persons who realized the poll. Which data have been collected in Namounou, Comin Yanga, and Dourtenga localities? Which are the characteristics of health services located in these villages? Notify the indices and the items chose for the data analyze.

Make a brief description of social and cultural realities of the localities and point out some informations on the characteristics of family constitutions: small family (mum, dad and children), large family?

Informations on local context permit the understanding of the relationship the
members of each type of family and their role in the decision relatively to mother-mortality and infant mortality.

Results

Page 6-7 (decision-making process for utilisation of maternal care)

It will be also more interesting and exact to evoke with juxtapose way the mode of decision into the two types of family. What about the families in which the woman has an income and in which where she has not?

Note that the woman can also be householder (single, widow)

Page 7-8 (requirement of permission and care payment responsibility)

…“Otherwise, when the relationship is not good, the women can be considered a lazy person and no attention will be paid to her” ….

Use the collected data and analyzes for interpretations instead of suppositions as made in the text.

Discussion

The discussion may present elements of comparison between men’s decision approach and decision-making of the other members as far as health or/and domestics’ consumption are concerned.

The discussion may deal with the problem of welcome in health services thus the organization of prenatal consultations. These séance are free of charge as a rule, but why women do not participate generally?

Conclusion

Your conclusion does not give the limits of this study. The authors may also expose the health program initiated further to this experience. What is the contribution of this work for the improvement of the quality of the treatment of motherly health?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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