Reviewer's report

Title: Striving to promote male involvement in maternal health care in rural and urban settings in Malawi - a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 31 October 2011

Reviewer: Graciana Alves Duarte

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   The question is not new but it is still important enough to be discussed. Background should be reviewed in order to address the following information:

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   I suggest that authors improve the description of data collection and analysis. I get to know who the interviewer was when I read about study limitation. It is important to know how the study was conducted and how data was analyzed in order to replicate the study.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   Data are well, but authors should improve the method section.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   I suggest also that authors present data and discussion together. In my opinion by presenting both results and discussion together it will improve the data comprehension.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Authors repeat part of results in discussion. I think they should presenting results and discussion together. I would like also that authors discuss a little more about the competition to promote male involvement. As the authors pointed out at the article “Does the goal justify the means?” I also think that authors should discuss more about type of the health facility, its location and the social status of the people that utilize its services in order to state at the conclusion that the approaches are related to them.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   In my opinion the title is adequate.
7. Is the writing acceptable?

I am not an expert in English so I am not able to judge the writing grammar.

Finally, it would also improve the article if authors present to readers some information about M culture, it is not necessary to be extensive, but for a foreign reader it would help to understand the approaches used by health professionals.

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

**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' below.