Reviewer's report

Title: Influence of women's autonomy on infant mortality in Nepal

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2011

Reviewer: Maria Helena de Sousa

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1) It’s necessary to clarify if the variables of sampling plan (stratum, PSU, weight) were used in the analysis and what software was used to do this. It’s necessary to consider these characteristics because ‘DHS’ is a complex sample survey.

2) The variable “Visited health facility in the past 12 months” may have occurred after the dependent variable; for example, if the infant death has occurred four years before the survey, it’s not correct to consider “visited health facility in the past 12 months” how a independent variable. This question is not clearly explained in the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

3) Background, second paragraph: there is several words ‘status’ repeated.

4) Methods:

I suggest that the authors revise the multiple statistical analyses, to use a method for variable selection. I also suggest the use of the Poisson regression model to obtain prevalence ratio (and 95% confidence interval) instead odds ratio.

In the third paragraph, first line, the definition of “infant mortality” must be corrected (“…number of…”?).

In the fourth paragraph, it’s necessary to list all the independent variables.

5) Results:

The second paragraph needs to be rewritten because it is not correct to use the term Infant Mortality Rate. Only a general estimate of 48 deaths per 1000 LB should be presented, remembering that the most appropriate is to apply indirect measurement technique proposed by Brass (1974) and adapted by Coale and Trussel (1983). Then, the suggestion is to present the results according to Table 2 (in %).

In the final of the second paragraph, there’s a variable that was not significant (place of residence) and other two significant variables that were not mentioned. In the last line there is an incorrect value according to the Table 2.
The third paragraph should be in the “Method” section.

6) Discussion: there are repetitions of several results, and several misspelled words.

7) References: there are more than 10 references that are not cited in the text of the manuscript.

**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.