Reviewer's report

Title: Contraceptive adoption in the extended postpartum period is low in Northwest Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2014

Reviewer: Rameet H Singh

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Background: This is an important study that is reporting on postpartum contraceptive use in a specific district in Ethiopia. It would be helpful to know why the authors selected this particular district.

2. In the Data Collection section, could the authors please explain how the questionnaire was pretested? In how many women was it pretested in etc?

3. In the data processing and analysis section, could the authors please provide a better description of the data analysis? Please explain what methods were used for categorical variables and what was used for continuous variables? The sentence “Table and texts were used to present the results” is not clear. What texts were used to present the results? Do they mean the text in the paper? When referring to SPSS software it is required to report the version number in parentheses.

4. Results: Could the authors please indicate how many women were approached for participation in the study? How was the response rate calculated? Were 910 women were approached and 899 recruited?

   a. It is common to report mean ages with standard deviations instead of proportions of population that lay between specific age groups. Please report the mean age for your population with standard deviations.

   b. The authors report that 74.2% of the respondents resided in rural kebeles of the study area and then report on the percentages of Amhara ethnic group and orthodox Christians. It would be useful for your readers to have a sense of the area, its make up and population before reading these results. In your background section please describe the population of this district.

Minor Essential Revisions

5. The authors have a section titled ‘Use of Maternal Health Services During Last Pregnancy’. Please clarify the title. Are the authors referring to a prior pregnancy or are they referring to the most recent pregnancy. I think the word ‘last’ can be deleted.

6. Determinants of Contraceptive Use - The authors report the adjusted odds ratio as follows [AOR(95% CI = 5.83(2.93, 11.63)]. The format is not clear. The AOR numeric should be placed immediately after the words AOR and the 95% CI
should be put in the parentheses (). Please also remove the = sign.
7. There is a discrepancy between the results reported in the abstract and those reported in the body of the paper. In the abstract the authors have reported three decimal points and in the body of the paper it is 2 decimal points. Please be consistent with reporting the results. It is recommended that only 2 decimal points be reported. Please change the data in the abstract section and please make sure that the format for reporting is consistent across both sections.
8. In Table 1: Please include the total N at the top in the heading section. Does the title of the table need to include ‘January 2013’?
9. In table 1: The variable Age should have ‘years’ in parentheses next to it.
10. In the footnotes of Table 2: Please add a section explaining the acronyms used in the table. For example ANC – Antenatal care; PNC – Postnatal care etc. It is recommended that tables should stand by themselves and your reader should not need to look at the body of paper.
11. Table 4: Please put the description of the acronyms in the footnotes of the table. The title can be simplified to “Predictors of contraceptive use”. The odds ratios should go to 2 decimal points.
12. Table 4 – Instead of number of alive children consider “Number of living children”.
13. Table 4: Please put ‘years’ after Age.
14. Table 4: Does the number 1 refer to the referent group? Consider using Ref instead of 1.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.