Reviewer's report

**Title:** Cultural Competence among maternal health care providers in Bahir Dar City Administration, Northwest Ethiopia: Cross Sectional Study

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 8 October 2014

**Reviewer:** Sunil Khanna

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This article reports the results of a cross-sectional study, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, to assess the level of cultural competency and its associated factors among maternal health care providers serving in Bahir Dar City, Northwest Ethiopia. The results of the study suggest that, regardless of the overall competency level, the providers had limited engagement with culturally diverse groups. Based on these findings the authors recommend on-job training that incorporates cultural competency curriculum. Although there is considerable research already conducted on cultural competency among health care providers, the most interesting aspect of this article is that it was carried out in Ethiopia. In this context, the questions posed by the authors are both relevant and well defined.

The authors make a strong case for integrating cultural competence into MCH services so that health care providers are cultural competent and respectful of customs surrounding birth in a medical facility.

**Major compulsory revisions:**

1. The authors need to provide information on the specific cultural/ethnic diversity that they consider to be most relevant to their study. In its current form, the description of the importance of recognizing cultural traditions and practices surrounding birth by health care providers is quite generic. More specific information about ethnic diversity and cultural practices surrounding birth and prenatal care should be included.


3. It is unclear from the paper how the authors identified potential participants for the study. The selection criteria described in the paper lists that health care professionals working in maternal care units for at least 6 months in all public and private health care facilities were included in the study. It will be helpful to know how many health care professionals were considered to participate in the study relative to the final sample size. In addition, the authors should consider splitting the descriptive data for private health care professionals from public health care professionals to examine if class factors have any influence on the level of cultural competency.
4. The authors should clarify why fewer doctors participated in the study, presuming that approximately 25% of the sample was made of non-nurses.

5. The phrase "sex of health workers" should be changed to "gender of health workers."

6. The concluding section should be strengthened to describe how this study contributes to the general understanding of global health and specifically to the need for cultural competency in Ethiopia.

**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.