Reviewer's report

Title: Cross-sectional survey of knowledge of obstetric danger signs among women in rural Madagascar.

Version: 0 Date: 05 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Jerome Kabakyenga

Reviewer's report:

Abstract

There is need for a background of the study

Introduction

The phrasing of sentences on lines 10-20 need to be improved.

The m-health is not explained enough for the reader to understand on what it was all about.

The second part of the objectives (explore effect of knowledge on institutional delivery) appear not to have been achieved - why not remove it completely from the manuscript.

Results

Table 1: the numbers of those who received PANDA interventions and those who did not receive should be shown in this table.

Parity is repeated delete one.

Separate variable ANC visits is not necessary yet there is one which the different categories why not merge.

It is not clear from table 3 & 4 which knowledge of danger periods (Pregnancy, childbirth/delivery, postnatal) are referring too. The table titles are not clear.

Table 4: the education variables need to be aligned well with the ODDS RATIOS.

Discussion

Discussion section is fair.

The section lines 15-22 is not clear.

There is need to include conclusion section after discussion

References
Reference: Pembe et al. is not numbered

General
The English needs to be improved for the whole manuscript.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.