Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with intended use of a Maternity Waiting Home in Southern Ethiopia: a community-based cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 14 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Sarah Rominski

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting manuscript. Overall, I think it is well written and describes an important topic to maternal health.

I do, however, have a few, mainly minor, comments.

First, it is noted that the vast majority of the sample did not know about MWHs prior to the study. Was there an educational segment which explained to the participants who did not know about these homes as part of their participation in the study? If so, that needs to be explained. If not, how could they say whether or not they were likely to use the homes?

Why was 50% set as the expected frequency of intended MWH usage in the power calculation?

What were the inclusion criteria for the study?

What is the Adapted Three Delays Model? I am familiar with the Three Delays Model, and the three delays listed are from the original 3 delays model. What is adapted about it?

Why wasn't respondent education collected (and only husband's level of education and participant literacy status)?

Next, on pages 7-8, lines 159-161, the authors write, "If there had been a change in birthing locations, we prompted for reasons why she had previously delivered both at home and at the facility, and, if applicable, which complications she had suffered during these births." How were these data collected? As open- or close-ended? If open-ended, were they then coded? How? By whom?

Why was the sample not selected to more closely resemble the country as a whole? Meaning, why so many urban respondents when the vast majority of the population live in rural areas?

What is an EGZ respondent?

Reference 20 on page 12 should be reference 19.
Remember that these are cross-sectional data and therefore causality cannot be determined. On page 13, lines 292-293, it is written, "Thus, increasing MWH-uptake cannot be done without addressing women's education and empowerment." This is suggesting causality that cannot be inferred.

From where was ethical review sought? I do not see that information in the manuscript as currently written.

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

No

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

Unable to assess

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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