Reviewer’s report

Title: 'If nurses were in our shoes would they breastfeed their own babies?' A qualitative inquiry on challenges of breastfeeding mothers on the PMTCT programme in a rural community in Zimbabwe

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Talitha Crowley

Reviewer’s report:

A well written article and an interesting topic.

Methods: Design - describe which qualitative research design was used e.g. descriptive as this aligns with the thematic data analysis method described. "Lived experiences" relates more to a phenomenological study, i.e. descriptive or interpretive phenomenology.

Sampling: Describe what informed the decision to interview 15 participants i.e. justify the sample size. It is concerning that the authors specifically recruited "breastfeeding mothers who were facing challenges with regards to adherence to PMTCT" when their aim was "to explore HIV infected women's experiences of the PMTCT programme in rural Zimbabwe". I am of the opinion that there is a misalignment between the inclusion criteria and the study aim. This may have biased the study findings.

Data collection: Indicate if the interviewers were experienced/trained in qualitative interviewing.

Trustworthiness: The authors should unpack how they ensured the rigor of the study, i.e. credibility, dependability, confirmability and transferability.

Data analysis: The authors should include a reference for the data analysis method used.

Findings: As pure qualitative research is concerned with individual experiences, it is not a common practice to report frequencies and percentages in qualitative data. Further, using percentages in small sample sizes may give a biased view. If the authors used a particular data analysis method that recommends this, it should be stated.

Discussion: A good discussion. The issue of community involvement in HIV prevention efforts (line 296-297) was not addressed in the findings.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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