Reviewer’s report

Title: “If there are no female nurses to attend to me, I will just go and deliver at home”: a qualitative study in Garissa, Kenya

Version: 0 Date: 28 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Choolwe Jacobs

Reviewer’s report:

Overview

1. This paper provides an understanding of the key barriers to health facility delivery in the Somalia community of North Eastern Kenya and was aimed at informing interventions on specific needs of the community. The study was conducted among community members including users of the services. The finding of the study is of importance to public health, researchers and to informing policy. The study was well conducted and adds to the literature on barriers to facility delivery. Authors may consider the following to enhance the paper:

Title and Abstract

2. The dates for the study and the study design should be stated in the abstract. I understand the word count limit but this information is important in the abstract. For instance mention of the software for data analysis may be replaced by the type of analysis.

Introduction

3. The aim of the study and outcome measures is clearly defined with appropriate reference to the literature.

Methods

4. Study setting - what method was used to select study sites and participants?

5. The authors should describe and provide rationale for the design used for this study

6. What type of analysis was conducted for this study. This should be stated.

7. It would also be important to see how the audit trial for the analysis was generated and how the themes were identified.
8. Study participants/sampling - describe composition of focus groups, and what criteria where used in purposive sampling

9. Data collection tools - further detail is needed here regarding, who did the interviews/led the focus groups, when were they conducted, what language they were conducted in and fluency of the interviewer, how were interviews/FGD conducted ie. did they use a guide, if so i would suggest including it as an appendix

10. Please comment on data saturation at the point of sampling and analysis.

11. The authors should provide rational for using different data sources

12. Data management/analysis - who and how many individuals coded the data.

Results

13. When revising the paper, I suggest the authors ensure that the paper complies with the internationally accepted COREQ criteria for reporting qualitative studies. COREQ guidance are detailed in the following paper: Tong A1, Sainsbury P, Craig J. Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. Int J Qual Health Care. 2007 Dec;19(6):349-57. Epub 2007 Sep 14

Discussion

14. This section is well discussed.

General comment

The authors should thoroughly edit the paper for grammatical and typo errors.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**

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

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