Reviewer’s report

Title: Is the place of birth related to the mother’s satisfaction with childbirth? A cross-sectional study in a rural district of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

Version: 0 Date: 23 May 2019

Reviewer: Jeanine Young

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and relevant study involving a shift in birthing practices from home to hospital facilities in a developing country of Laos with the long term aim being a reduction in maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. The study aim was clearly articulated. The cross sectional study design used was appropriate to the research questions and study aim. Data collection considered language and cultural capacity of mothers to participate with recruitment facilitated by native speaker of the language, and was ethically approved. Statistical analyses and linear regression models appear to be appropriate for the data collected and research questions posed. Key findings were discussed within the limits of the tools and data collection methods used.

Please use term 'births' rather than deliveries. The language used should focus on women who birth their babies, rather than health professional who 'deliver' them, now regarded in the midwifery literature as an outdated paternalistic, medical paradigm. To have her baby delivered to her means that a mother is the recipient of the action rather than the agent of action.

The key finding that maternal satisfaction with birth was higher for facility based birth compared to home based births warrants some caution and should be placed in context of a developing country with high maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Although this was done well in the discussion, this should also be contextualised in the abstract. In the discussion it was not clear as to the factors associated with this satisfaction (as outlined in the study limitations and interpretation) and the point could be made that this is an area for future research.

Ethical and site specific approvals were outlined appropriately.

Minor typographical and grammatical errors, however overall a well written paper worthy of publication.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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