**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:** 05 Jun 2019

**Reviewer:** Louise Brough

**Reviewer’s report:**

This study investigates if mothers satisfaction with childbirth is associated with place of delivery in Lao PDR.

**Introduction**

In the discussion there is mention of previous Lao studies investigating hospital delivery and satisfaction at birth. It would be better to put this information in the introduction and it shows what previous work has been done in Lao.

**Methods**

The survey was translated into Lao and then back translated into English, which is excellent. However, the authors note that if the participant did not speak Lao, then the survey was translated verbally into an ethnic language. This reduces the validity of the study as it has the potential to introduce translation errors. Why was the survey not also translated (and back translated) into other ethnic languages? How many women did this affect?

The original SWCh has 7 questions - but on analysis of the present data this was reduced to 5. Has this been seen in other studies. If you are not using the full 7 Qs you are not using the validated tool. You need to discuss this as a limitation.

**Results**

Very few participants were referred from home to the hospital during birth. Is this normal, are women with expected complications advised to deliver at hospital. Or is this because most of the women this happened to not included in the study, this would mean these few are not representative and should be removed. Either remove or make it clear how these women coded, as hospital or home delivery?

**Discussion**
Make it clear how the previous Lao studies are different to current study.

More discussion of limitations of methods required (see above).

**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.

No

**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

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