Reviewer's report

Title: Antenatal care strengthening for improved quality of care in Jimma, Ethiopia: An effectiveness study

Version: 1
Date: 24 November 2014

Reviewer: Albrecht Jahn

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This paper is much improved compared to the first submission.

However, some issues still need further clarification.

1. The authors describe the intervention was developed bottom-up and complex. Thus they were more interested in the process, which is well described.

2. However, they still use the survey data for a statistical analysis with respect to specific outcomes and report significant beneficial effects on education on danger signs during pregnancy (OR: 3.9, 95% CI: 2.6;5.7), laboratory testing (OR for blood tests other than HIV 2.9, 95% CI: 1.9;4.5), health problem identification (OR 1.8, 95% CI:1.1;3.1), and satisfaction with the service (OR: 0.4, 95% CI: 0.2;0.9).

Which outcome measures were defined at the beginning of the study?
E.g. why were skilled delivery care /place of delivery not included as outcome measures while encouraging skilled delivery care is an important objective of ANC?

3. It appears that all data were derived from the postnatal survey. Were antenatal and delivery records checked along with the interviews? Is the information provided on specific tests and ANC interventions based on postnatal interviews with mothers, only?

4. Only intervention facilities received material and equipment for tests from the project; thus having more tests there, is a self-fulfilling prophecy, and simply measuring your input. This limitation should be mentioned on the discussion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests