Reviewer’s report

Title: POST - EFFECTS OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA IN UGANDA; A CASE STUDY OF FISTULA SURVIVORS IN KITOVU MISSION HOSPITAL (MASAKA), UGANDA

Version: 1 Date: 11 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Dr Joseph Obure

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Background: the authors provided a very short background and it lacks information on the research question and why did they do the study (rationale and justifications)

Methodology: while this is a descriptive study, the authors did not mention whether this was a cross-section or prospective study in nature. Also a number of key methodological aspects miss such as; what and how was the recruitment process, timing of recruitment, how was the interview administered? by who? when? where was the study conducted? which interview methods were used? (KII, IDI, FGD), was it face to face? or phone? (given that women came from different areas of the countries. When were the fistula repair done? (from when to when?)

Research question: missing?

Variable of interest not defined

Results: more descriptive statistics needed to inform the composition of study participants (Age, Parity, Baby alive or not, Time from fistula/birth injury to repair, Time from fistula repair to complete healing (defined), time from the repair to the study interview, Time from healing to study interview). these are important as they may all affect the research question or study outcome of interest.

PIE Chart - Total number (N) missing.

There may be need to associate the outcome of interest in relations to most of the proposed variables above as they certainly affect findings from your study.

Ethical issues: i am worried as to why such an intimate study did not collect written informed consent but rather collect verbal consent. This study involved interviewing fistula survival and some questions were such intimate.
Finally, I wonder why the study only dealt with coping and re-integration mechanism by the fistula survivals but did not seek to find additional information on the role of health system, community and families to facilitate re-integration.

**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.

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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