Reviewer’s report

Title: The relationship between under-five child death and maternal mental distress in Gamo Gofa Zone, Southern Ethiopia: A community based comparative cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 02 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Marja Kaunonen

Reviewer's report:

1) Abstract needs some language checking; eg significantly high compared to ---- higher

2) Background starts with average description of mental health. The authors should concentrate to the mother's mental health after the death of a child and reason why it is important study topic. And how it is related to the postpartum depression of mothers.

There are some inconsistencies in concepts: maternal mental distress vs common mental disorders vs maternal mental health

3) Study area: please, describe how the study area is in comparison with larger African; global areas? Why this study would be in interest of readers from other parts of the world??

4) Please, clarify how the data were collected, when a big portion of the participants were not able to read or write

5) The results are interesting, however it remains unclear where did you take the timeframe of 3 years after the death of a child. Did it have a theoretical reasoning?

6) Please discuss more why these study results would be worth publishing in an international journal; why it would interest readers outside the area? Are the results generalizable?

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 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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