Reviewer’s report

Title: "The sun keeps rising but darkness surrounds us": a qualitative exploration of the lived experiences of women with obstetric fistula in Ethiopia

Version: 4 Date: 03 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Solina Richter

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors

Thanks you for attending to the revisions. It greatly improved the quality of the manuscript.

There is however, more revisions required to make this a paper publishable.

I have uploaded the manuscript with the comments for correction, but will try to also summarize the suggestions.

Please attend to the following:

1. Page 3 Line 17 - 18: change '97% had mental health problems' to '97% developed mental health problems'.

2. Page 3 Line 31- 32: Change '… visits for their pregnancy' to 'visits during their pregnancy'.

3. Page 3 Line 35 - 36: You talk about skilled assistant. I suggest that you are more precise. Are you talking about 'skilled birth attendants'? 

4. Page 3 line 46- 47. I am not sure if I agree with this statement. Most of t research on obstetrical fistula (OF) particularly focus on experiences if living with this condition. Maybe in Ethiopia there is not much known. I still need a stronger motivation what this research will contribute to new knowledge related to OF.

5. Page 3 Line 52: would like a better description between the association between home delivery and early marriage and the delivery of obstetrical fistula.
6. Page 4 Line 8: What is the research questions?

7. Page 4 line 21: remove 'on'.

8. Page 4 Line 24 - 25. The sentence, 'The researchers approached bracketing through.' Is not a complete sentence.

9. Page 4 Line 25 - 26. The sentence, 'The current research reported the experience of fistula "what" and how they become a fistula victim "How it experienced'. The sentence construction need some editing.

10. Page 4 Line 48. I suggest that you remove the three words, 'and provides surgery'.

11. Page 5 Line 19 - 20. Were ten participants selected or recruited? Were 10 selected/recruited or was this sample sufficient to give you an in-depth understanding of the phenomena?

12. Page 5 Line 20 - 33. Add 'a between in and convenient. The place cannot keep confidentiality. The place ensure privacy and can contribute to confidentiality. Please change the sentence.

13. Page 5 Line 47 - 48. Delete the words 'through the interview'.

14. Page 6 Line 10. Was the transcript translated to English and how was the translation quality addressed? I suggest that you add information on the backward and forward translation and who was involved in this process?

15. Page 6 Line 19. You stated that, "Discrepancies on the application of code guide were reviewed and resolved. This exercise ensured that the coders had a common understanding of the code guide and its applications'. How was this resolved? Sentence structure needs revision.

16. Page 6 Line 43 - 44. You stated that, 'before transitioning to the next theme or statement on the study guide, the interviewer read back the summary.........'. It was not a study guide but rather and interview guide and wonder how this was possible as the interviews was not yet transcribed at this stage.
17. Page 6 Line 58. Change to: An independent researcher who was not part of the study……'

18. Page 7 Line 23-24: Change 'had had' to 'who had developed (or experienced)'.

19. Page 8 Line 51 - 58. This statement need a reference otherwise it reads like an assumption.

20. Page 18 Line 46. Change 'Fistula' to 'obstetrical Fistula'.

21. Page 18 Line 51 - 53. You stated that 'the finding has positive implications for health care service utilization and for discouraging early marriage practice'. This is a very vague statement and I suggest that you expand on this statement. I agree but need to know more about the 'how'.

22. Page 20 Lines 15 - 25. What about educating the family and community about the causes of OF and the treatment options. Can you suggest any further research generated by your findings?

23. There are is still many grammatical and editorial changes needed.

This is important findings to share and I suggested again revisions and resubmission.

**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.

Unable to assess

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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