Reviewer’s report

Title: Reasons for Delay in Seeking Treatment among Women with Obstetric Fistula in Tanzania: A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Amr Mahran

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a cross-sectional study to investigate the reasons for the delay in seeking obstetric fistula treatment in their country.

1- Abstract:
- Background: Long, can be shorter.
- Results: Please add a phrase to describe the patients' demographics.

2- Introduction:
- Well written.

3- Methods:
Sampling:
- The sample size is small. I wished the authors to include more patients. Including more patients might increase the chance of finding more themes of the desired prevalence.
- Please, indicate how many patients were approached to participate? I would strongly recommend adding a flow chart for patients' selection process including the numbers of patients who refused to participate, and numbers of partial and complete responses.

4- Results:
- Patients demographics: I would recommend adding a paragraph describing the demographics (mean ± SD for age, and number (%) of other demographics). Please, include economic status and parity in the table. Multiparity is an important risk factor.
- How many patients did suffer from stigma against women, self-isolation, community isolation and so on...? A yes/no table would be appropriate including the themes and number of responses.
- Most patients in the study are unemployed with a low level of education. Did the authors try to investigate the factors associated with seeking early treatment in other patients? It would be great to draw such comparison. Education level, economic status, and employment are important factors that may contribute to the study findings.
- Financial difficulty should be studied as a separate theme (not only under distance form hospitals)- fear of the cost associated with the procedure and/or complications.

5- Discussion:
- Please, discuss the possible contribution of unemployment, under-education, and multiparity.
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.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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