Reviewer’s report

Title: On-site clinical mentoring as a maternal and new-born care quality improvement method: Evidence from a nurse cohort study in Nepal

Version: 1 Date: 10 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Diná de Almeida Lopes Monteiro da Cruz

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the opportunity to review this manuscript. The topic is relevant; the content presents the effects of a mentoring intervention to improve knowledge and skills of health professionals on maternal and birth care facilities. The reader interested in interventions to enhance the quality of service in maternal and newborn care can be inspired by the manuscript, although the description of the mentoring program (clinical and complimentary) is succinct.

As stated by the authors, the absence of a control group weakens the evidence that the clinical mentoring program is responsible for the knowledge and skills improvement of the professionals. In spite of that, a pre and posttest design is adequate for studies conducted in 'natural' environments as the one reported here. In terms of study limitations, the unknown validity and reliability of the knowledge and skills assessment tools should be mentioned as well.

Although I have not reviewed the previous version of the manuscript, all the suggestions were considered, and the text was amended accordingly.

Finally, I hope the initiative reported in the manuscript be sustained at the study setting and adopted by other services that tackle such challenges seemingly.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
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