Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of patterns of maternal and child health service utilization in a rural community in South Eastern Nigeria

Version: 0 Date: 07 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Cecilia Williams

Reviewer's report:

General Comments

The paper does not read well.

The abstract does not clearly show how the factors identified actually influence service utilization i.e. how does socioeconomic factors improve or reduce utilization?

Conclusion does not link the determinants to service utilization and as such the conclusion about improved service utilization will arise from the removal of challenges to service utilization is not clearly stated

Although the title indicates that the study will look at determinants in a rural community in South Eastern Nigeria, the methodology indicates 2 communities were selected(i.e. Nkanu East and Nara Communities)

Also worrisome is the fact that study found women and men with tertiary level education living in this rural community.

Information from the 2 FGDs conducted was not clearly included here.

The authors also need to check validity of data used in this paper and the use of data from other publications rather than the original source of the data, e.g. national data on skilled attendant at birth, should be taken from the NDHS for accuracy. Comments are also made directly in the attached paper.
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.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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