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: 09 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Chibugo Okoli

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Determinants of Patterns of maternal and Child Health Service Utilization in a rural community in South Eastern Nigeria

Importance of Subject matter - This is an important public health issue however their is a wealth of knowledge now available on these determinants. What is lacking is scaling up implementation of appropriate interventions in these communities

Method - The sampling method is weak. It is not clear the criteria used for the stage of selection of the one LGA out of many LGAs in Enugu State. The inclusion criteria of the women selected within the households are not clear. Within the context of South East which has five states and more than 60 LGAs, it is difficult to generalize the results from one community out of numerous communities in the South Eastern region of Nigeria. The methodology would have benefited from including some other communities.

It is not clear whether the questionnaire used had been validated and used by previous research projects exploring answers to the same issue.

Discussion - The discussion is clearly outlined with the amount of information available. However the authors do not discuss any limitations to the research process and how they have mitigated these limitations.
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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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