Reviewer's report

Title: Why Muslim women in northern Ghana do not use skilled maternal healthcare services at health facilities: A qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 22 November 2014

Reviewer: Yulia Izati

Reviewer's report:

- Minor Essential Revisions

Please provide a table with information on participants’ obstetric characteristic such as gravidity, parity and abortion (if any), previous history of delivery along with other social demographic characteristics (average age, level of education, marital status, etc).

Information on village or area where the study being conducted is also needed, please put information on village characteristic such as number of health facility; number of health provider (male and female); number of health volunteer; etc.

Please refer to “Maternal mortality and severe morbidity in rural Indonesia Part 1: The community perspective (47-67)
Lucia D'Ambruoso, Evi Martha, Yulia Izati, Alice Kiger, Anna Coates

The above information would provide more insight on the participants and study area characteristics.

On method:

During the FGDs how would you address the effect from a participant that has strong determination among other participants, since usually there is always one or two person who is dominant in the discussion?

On Findings:

Line 340-347, was it explored to the participants their experience with unsafe delivery, meaning the baby died or else? It’s interesting that they said that it is necessary to have the birth delivery to be safe in order to increase their bargaining position or power; and how do they ensure that? What did they do to ensure the safety? Was the husband or family’s role in ensuring the safety explored as well? If there is more information about this, it would be good to express their experience on that.

To triangulate the information, was interview with health provider conducted? Interesting since according to one participant, the health provider asked her to open her clothes while a nurse man was there in the room. In some of the
written, it is said that the health provider’s knowledge on Muslim is lacking. Do you have any chance in exploring this issue with the health provider?

What about the role of religious leader in the study area? Could it be the religious leader plays role to increase the use of health facility by Muslim women in Gonja as usually leader have power to influence the people?

On recommendation:
The result of the study could be inputs for the Islamic society or organization in Ghana and international to participate and provide ‘technical expertise’ in delivering acceptable healthcare for Muslim women according to Islam.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'