Title: Disrespect and abuse of women during the process of childbirth at health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors:

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editor Comments:
1. Please provide a more detailed discussion of the limitations of the study in the Discussion section.
Author response: Dear editor the comments accepted and I included the limitation in detail.
2. Please improve the English language of the manuscript, particularly of the new added parts.
Author response: I tried to correct English grammar by grammar online checker.

Reviewer 1:
Introduction:
Comment 1 about adding data variations in prevalence.
Author response: Dear reviewer the comments accepted and made correction.
A study conducted in India showed that 9.1% of experienced disrespect and abuse by self reporting, whereas observers reported 22.4% of women being mistreated (13). Similarly, a study conducted in India showed that 71.31% experienced disrespect and abuse (14).

Methods:
Comment 1 about type of studies included in the search
Author response: Dear reviewer the comments accepted and made correction.
Quantitative primary studies were conducted with cross sectional, and cohort study design in sub-Saharan Africa, irrespective of whether the study was implemented in the health facility and or in the community were included.
Comment 4 about the number of papers excluded for each exclusion criteria
Author response: 27 articles are qualitative and 3 are review articles
Comment 5 about using datasets from authors
The pooled prevalence of disrespect and abuse of women during the process of childbirth at health facilities with 95%CI was calculated using the random effects model

Results:
Comment 10 about operational definitions
Author response: Dear reviewer the comments accepted and made correction.
see reference 10

Discussion:
Comment 12 about limitations of the study
The potential limitation of this study were included do not follow the same methodology, various scales, tools, and methods of data collection were carried out. This has an effect on the prevalence of disrespect and abuse during childbirth. The data should be reported with caution, because of the high heterogeneity. Also there is recall bias and limit of language is English.

Reviewer 2
Comment 1 about social and cultural connotations.
Disrespect and abuse as normalized and internalized by both health care providers and women as a normal event, the way of data collection like self administration, interview and observation (51)
Comment 2 about the significance/contribution of the study
This study synthesis an essential evidence that will help for developing women centered interventions, standardized tool to assess respectful maternity care.

This study point out that ministry of health, health care providers, maternal health experts shall due attention to women’s right during the process of childbirth at health facilities. The health care providers also should give women centered care and respect the culture of women during maternity care services.
Comment 3 about countries of origin of the articles
Author response: Dear author I put countries of origin of the articles on table 1
Comment 4 about having a stronger discussion
Author response: Dear reviewer the comments accepted and made correction.

Comment 5 about the repetitions
Dear, reviewer accepted your comments and removed two paragraphs.