Reviewer’s report

Title: Multivariable regression analysis of list experiment data on abortion: results from a large, randomly-selected population based study in Liberia

Version: 0 Date: 28 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Elard Koch

Reviewer's report:

As epidemiologist with research experience in the area of maternal and women's health in general, I consider this paper address a relevant question and it is methodologically sound.

The possible impact of female education on abortion is a very interesting issue in this manuscript and probably it is one of the main findings of the multiple regression analysis carried out in this study. However, authors do not provide an evidence-based discussion addressing the plausibility of the association found in their study, perhaps indirectly supporting the impact of education on women's health in Liberia. For instance, some studies show a strong association between Women's education with contraceptive use or fertility rate (eg Correlates of contraceptive use among Ghanaian women of reproductive age Afr J Reprod Health 2012;16:155e70 or Public Health 2014; ). This may decrease the absolute number of women who resort to abortions in Liberia. We show in a recent study in Mexico that a higher female education has been associated to decreasing maternal mortality due to abortion and the negative association was independent of differences on legal restrictions among states (BMJ Open. 2015 Feb 23;5(2):e006013).

Please, provide a conceptual definition and/or a more detailed description of "design effect" for the readers.

Please, provide the precise sentences related to the the question on abortion (randomly added to the list).

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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