Reviewer’s report

Title: Depression among pregnant women and associated factors in Hawassa city, Southern Ethiopia: an institution-based cross-sectional study, 2017

Version: 0 Date: 11 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Agumasie Semahegn

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Title: Antenatal depression and associated factors among pregnant mothers, the case of Hawassa City, Ethiopia, Cross sectional Study (REPH-D-18-00486)

Thank you for the invitation and it’s a pleasure to have as such a marvelous scientific work. The manuscript is very crucial to the field. Some of my concerns are:

- Topic: it would be good if modified ...."Depression among pregnant women and associated factors in Hawassa city, Southern Ethiopia: a facility/Institution-based cross-sectional study"

Abstract:

- Background: kindly avoid the year '2018', as far as the study period was not cover the whole year of 2018, or you can specifically report the study period or data collection period.

- Purpose: The objective of the study was to identify factors associated with depression among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in public health institutions, Hawassa, Ethiopia, 2018. ..... the topic reflect both the level/prevalence and associated factors but readers might be confused that the author is wondered to identify only the associated factors

- Methods: the study period was May to July 2017: please be consistent on write up. It creates confusion on readers. Please kindly omit the term "Random" and use Systematic Sampling.

- Results: line 43-45 what does it mean 'poor baby father support" which baby, please? Just partner may sound for.
Methods

Setting: page 5: line 12-17 needs language revision, and the incorrect citation (see City Administration Annual Report 2011), it should be according to the journal citation format, consult the authors' guideline.

Age 5: line 24-28: Eligibility criteria: what does it mean having regular follow up only? What about other pregnant women who came for ANC occasionally, in addition, how can you confidently report the prevalence of depression once excluded women who have mentally ill. What if her mental illness is due to depression?

Data collection instrument: reports of sensitivity, specificity and Cronbach's alpha, is that from your finding or from other study? Seem from other study and cited, but how do you look at the similarity of the setting in terms of geographical, culture and other related factors. It would be good if you report the reliability estimate of your finding.

- Sampling procedure should be clearly described in the method section. I was wondering that how do you recruit study participants, how many pregnant mothers were recorded, and how many of them were eligible for your study, how many pregnant women were approached, how many pregnant women were interviewed, how many of them refused, incomplete or excluded but hardly to get it in the manuscript, at least a piece of information about sampling procedure.... Kth or interval/pattern to recruit participants using SYSTEMATIC SAMPLING??? How did you estimate or calculate the sample size, nothing is reported here.

- What did you do to monitor your study or to maintain the good quality of your study, data and findings?

Results:

- Sociodemographic- variables: it is sad to see ethnicity as a factor or independent variable for a scientific curiosity. If so, how did you assess or manage its confounding effect of the ethnic based conflict has been arise between Sidama (See 145 (45.7%) Sidama by ethnicity) and Wolaita in Hawassa city almost during your study period, and also a violence and internal displacement around Hawassa. In that case, internally displaced people may came for ANC to your study site/facilities, so how did you handle it as covariate?

- Table 1: What was the standard to categories participants age (very unusual), income in Birr (kindly make it in USD and look at the level of income as an international standard), because many readers may not understand Birr and its value? Education, please use grade level otherwise primary, secondary and preparatory may have different meaning in different countries.

Discussion: avoid duplicating reports from results section.
Thanks!

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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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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