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: 02 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Maggie Kinshella

Reviewer’s report:

Mental health is an emergent topic of interest in global health and this article is timely. The study found that one in five pregnant women attending antental clinics in Hawassa, Ethiopia suffered from depression and discussed some of the associated characteristics. However, I was left with some more questions about the study that the authors could further elaborate.

1) Page 3, line 24 and page 6, line 51 and page 7, line 18 - Please explain what "good family feeling on current pregnancy" meant? Is this a validated measure?

2) Page 4, lines 6-12 - awkward long sentence, please rework. Remove "sinful" feeling

3) Page 4, line 30 - Child health outcomes is mentioned. Please elaborate on what types of outcomes.

4) Page 4, line 34-36 - What is the influence on postnatal depression? Increases? By how much?

5) Page 4, line 48 - Explain the statement that "the research in this area is minimal". Please back up this statement with evidence and clarify in LMICs. Did authors do a literature search on the topic in LMICs? If so, please describe findings. If not, this statement is not supported. Fisher et al (2012) could be used as a reference to support but ideally, need more of a literature review to make the statement.

6) Page 5, line 7-9 - Justify why this time period for data collection. Elaborate on how this time period was chosen and how three months was decided to be enough time. Justify why this time period is believed to be similar to other times of the year and if seasonality could be an issue.

7) Page 5, line 18 - What is the poverty line in SNNPRS, in Ethiopia?

8) Page 5, line 21 - Describe how systematic random sampling was completed

9) Page 5, line 38 - Add reference to statement about how EPDS has been validated

10) Page 5, line 40 - EPDS was validated for detecting post-partum depression in Addis Ababa. Justify its use for antepartum. See Kozinsky et al 2015 (Kozinszky Z, Dudas RB. Validation studies of the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale for the antenatal period. Journal of affective
disorders. 2015 May 1;176:95-105.) who found inconclusive validity of EPDS for antenatal period

11) Page 6, line 6 - Add citation for common use of the Oslo 3-item social support scale. Also, are there any previous studies completed in Ethiopia? It was tested in Norway and other countries in Europe. Has it been validated for LMICs use?

12) Page 6 - results - Was there any impact of gestational age?

13) Page 3, line 24 and page 6, line 51 and page 7, line 18 - First, change lose to lost and secondly clarify "history of lose new born child". Does this mean perinatal deaths or neonatal deaths up to 28 days?

14) Page 7, line 48 - the 20-30 age bracket is also the largest age group. How was that taken into account for the analyses?

15) Page 7, line 52 - explain possible reasons why this study was in line with other studies.

16) Page 7, line 48, line 54 and page 8, line 6 and page 8, line 12 and page 8, line 24 and page 8, line 28 - Include (AOR and CI 95%)

17) Page 7, line 56 - which low resource settings

18) Page 7, line 8 - "This finding was in agreement with other study findings" - Where? What other studies?

19) Page 8, line 32 and 34 - Social support was described in the results section (Page 7, line 20) as not significantly associated, which contradicts the statement in the discussion that "antenatal depression was significantly higher among pregnant mothers who had poor social support than women who had good social support".

20) Page 9 - Better brainstorm of limitations is needed. For example, one limitation is that the study excludes women who are not attending ANC who may also have higher or lower rates

There were also a number of grammar edits needed:

1) Page 3, line 6 - "which" should be changed to "that"

2) Page 3, line 16 - do not capitalize "Experience" since it is in the middle of a sentence

3) Page 3, line 21 and 23 - correct tenses - age ranged, earned less

4) Page 3, line 23 and page 6, line 43 - add conversion of Ethiopian birr to USD or EURO

5) Page 3, 24 and 26 -add percentages
6) Page 3, line 28 - add number of women for the 21.5% women with antenatal depression

7) Page 3, line 30 - do not capitalize "Educational"

8) Page 3, line 27 - change the comma after recommended to a period

9) Page 4, line 14 - add to previous paragraph

9) Page 4, line 14 - "which" should be changed to "that"

10) Page 4 - lines 38-46 - move the two sentences on adverse maternal outcomes up to line 26 after bringing up the range of fetal and obstetric problems.

11) Page 4 - line 50-52 - Change "this study was aim to..." to "the aim of this study". Add "in Ethiopia" after the aim to determine the prevalence of antenatal depression. Add s to factors; not just looking for a singular factor.

12) Page 5, line 9 - do not capitalize "Antenatal" and "Public"

13) Page 5, line 18 and 20 - write out 5, 2, and 1 in words

14) Page 6, line 21 - Descriptive statistics "were" not "was"

15) Page 6, line 23 - do not capitalize "Logistic"

16) Page 6, line 39 and 41 - capitalize "Protestant", do not capitalize "Non-employed"

17) Page 6, line 43 - tense - change "earns" to "earned"

18) Page 7, line 9 - add number of women associated with the percentage

19) Page 7, line 14 - do not capitalize "logistic", "age", and "educational"

20) Page 7 line 18 and 20 - change "planed" to "planned" and "associate" to "associated"

21) Page 7, line 58 - change "didn't" to "did not"

22) Page 8, line 10 - awkward first sentence, rework

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