Reviewer’s report

Title: Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness Practice and Influencing Factors among Women in Sodo town, Wolaita zone, Southern Ethiopia, 2018; community based cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: karline Wilson-Mitchell

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting article. There are some minor grammatical/style mistakes that could easily be corrected (e.g., Abstract line 28, page 3, "Descriptive statistics was made and Bivariate and multivariable logistic regression was carried out....") or " A pen was spin and the direction pointed by the tip of the pen was followed. To select the first house hold, one of the house which was included under the initial sampling interval of each kebele was selected by simple random sampling; lottery method."

The true nature of "community-based research" is that the participants are closely participating in the methodology, the analysis of findings and translation of the findings/knowledge after conclusion are drawn. There is no reference to that, in fact the sampling method would have the reader conclude that this was not community-based. I think the author might explain that this study sampling was carried out in a small community or "kebele".

I believe that the research question was valid but perhaps the intervention used was not evidence-based, or controlled well enough to see a difference. Were all of the healthcare providers using the same script or list of teaching points to encourage families to be prepared for birth? The study is interesting but requires better critique and analysis based upon best practices in quality improvement research. Rather than a "cross-sectional study" I think the author needs to decide whether this was an intervention or action study. There are potentially so many confounding variables that influence birth outcomes, that it is not reasonable to assume that lack of knowledge of the key obstetric and neonatal danger signs would account for all of the poor outcomes observed in this study. Clearly the social determinants of health, access to a skilled provider, distance from facility, etc. contributed to the outcomes as well.

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