Reviewer’s report

Title: Before and after implementation of group antenatal care in Rwanda: a qualitative study of women’s experiences

Version: 1 Date: 10 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Juan Martin Librandi

Reviewer's report:

In general terms, the article presents a significant contribution when analyzing the perspective of women regarding a public policy and its possible impacts.

The study is descriptive; the bibliography used is adequate. However, the study is very close to accessibility studies. This difference should be justified. In particular, analyzes were presented on dimensions related to access, above those related to the meanings that women give to practices.

Regarding their contributions, the results presented would greatly benefit from a greater depth in the analysis.

The ethical components are correct.

Below I will present some specific comments along with suggestions to improve the work, with the honest expectation that they will enrich such an interesting work.

- The article makes the qualitative component appear as a residual element of the primary study. It is suggested that the justification of the strategy be extended and the qualitative object be hierarchized, not as a secondary and subordinate object, but with its intrinsic importance.

- "In Round One, 45% of women were 21 years old or younger and 55% were older than 21 years. In Round 2, 4% of women were 21 years old or younger and 96% were older than 21 years." How are these data linked to national ones?

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal