Reviewer’s report

Title: UTILIZATION OF PRECONCEPTION CARE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP WOMEN IN DEBRE BIRHAN TOWN, NORTH SHEWA, ETHIOPIA.

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Yitayal Goshu

Reviewer’s report:

Thanks a lot for your coming with this nice study. This is a very interesting area to research with lots of studies worldwide. I have tried to look your study and I have given my comments on my point of view below.

Abstract

1. Line 6-8 says "Preconception health refers to things women can do before and between pregnancies to increase the chance of having a healthy baby and being a healthy mother." Do you think that this is definition of Preconception health? I think this is definition of Preconception care. Please look it again and modify.

2. Line 11-13 says "Therefore Addressing this important topic and coming up with necessary information is helpful to improve maternal and child health in our country." I reccumend you to say addressing significant gap rather than saying addressing this important topic because topic can not be addressed but gaps can be and should be addressed.

3. Line 16-18 says "Community based cross-sectional study with both quantitative and qualitative method of data collection was employed from March 1st to 30, 2017." Both quantitative and qualitative method of data collection, didn't' you analyse quantitative and qualitative data separately? I think you didn't use qualitative and quantitative data for only collection. I reccumend you to say "a mixed method of community based cross-sectional study was employed from March 1st to 30, 2017."

4. Line 20-22 says "The data was collected using pre-tested and structured questionnaire and eight in-depth interviews were done using interview guide." Why did you include only eighth persons?

5. Line 25-31 says "Factors with pvalue < 0.25 in bivariate analysis were entered to multivariate logistic regression and statistical significance was considered at p-value < 0.05. OR and 95% CI were used to show the strength and significance of the association." 1) to make clear for all readers, say variables with pvalue < 0.25 instead of saying factors with pvalue < 0.25.
In conclusion part you didn't write about your second objective. As identifying factors associated with utilization of PCC is your second objective, you have to show the predictors.

"Debre Birhan Town" has to be included in your key words as it is the most important one.

Background

1  Line 35-42 says "Preconception care has a positive impact on reduction in mortality and improvement in health outcomes for the mother, offering long-term benefits for the woman; improved health outcome for the neonate/child, which will lead to health benefits in later life as an adolescent and adult; reduction in the incidence of too-early and too frequent pregnancies and abortions; and improvement in the nutritional status of mothers and women." It is too long sentence; it has to be rephrased.

2. Page 2 of background section Line 14-18 says "In low-income countries, Preconception care has not been widely implemented because its aims and objectives are not widely understood and accepted (8). Due to that premature deaths caused by infectious diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions and nutritional deficiencies is high(12). Are you sure that this problems were happened due to low utilization of PCC. And when I check the reference 12, it is not related to what you have written. Please look it again and modify it.

3. And on this section I recommend you to add:

1) how many percent of mother and/or child were died/faced different complications due to low utilization of PCC or to what extent PCC decrease maternal and child morbidity and mortality(if possible).

2) components of preconception care

3) factors affecting utilization of PCC.

Methods

1  Line 8 says "The study was conducted in Debre Birhan Town, North Shoa Zone, Amhara Region, Ethiopia;" but your title says "utilization of preconception care and associated factors among reproductive age group women in debre birhan town, north shewa, ethiopia." Try to use words consistently i.e chose the right word and use consistently.

2. You have written the study design for quantitative method of research but you haven't written the study design for qualitative method of research. What type of study design did you use for qualitative method of research.
3. Line 32-34 says "Study populations was all selected reproductive age (15-49 years) women who lived in Debre Birhan town." = are they samples or study population?

4. Line 56-58 says "Eight health professionals seven from health institution and one from Woreda health office were included in the study. " Why did you use only 8? Why did you select health professionals? Sample size for qualitative is depends on the design, so what design did you use? Are you sure that health professionals know the community well?

5. Line 27-30 says "The purpose was health professionals that were working on maternal, sexual and reproductive health services and related issues." Do you have another reason to select those health professionals especially regarding to whether they know the community or not?

6. Line 41 says "and three (Bsc) holder supervisors ……" Add their profession.

7. On abstract section there is a sentence "OR and 95% CI were used to show the strength and significancy of the association." But you didn’t write about the strength of association here. So, what measure of strength association did you use? And at what cut off point did you determined the level of strength?

8. Line 59 and 60 says "The validity of the tool was also approved by experts. How bout the reliability of the tool?"

Result

1. Line 14-16 says "One hundred and sixty seven (40.7%) of respondents had a monthly household income of 1000-3000 ETB and 141(34.4%) were educational level of more than secondary school." ETB has to be converted to US dollar.

2. Line 41 and 42 says "Level of women's knowledge on preconception care were measured based on correct response using six preconception care knowledge …." When we say level it seems ordinal type of measurement of scale, but you have categorized the dependent variable in to good and poor knowledge that is nominal type of measurement. So, avoid saying level.

3. In line 14 and 15 availability of adequate laboratory service, availability of adequate medication, and availability of unit for preconception care were listed as a variable which were significantly associated with utilization of PCC. It is well known that if there is no these service there is no utilization of PCC. So why did you analysed these variables?

Discussion

1. Line 7-14 says "the overall utilization of preconception care by reproductive age group women in this study was 13.4%, which is significantly higher than study carried out in Nigeria (2.5%) (15).The highest prevalence is due to, in Nigeria the prevalence was done only for folic acid intake with small sample size but in this study different components of preconception care was
assessed according to WHO (2012) recommendation with maximum representative sample size which make the study comprehensive." 1) I think it is not comparable because the objective of your study and a study done in Nigeria is different. 2) Do you think that utilization of folic acid is a component of PCC is low when it compares with other components? If yes based on other different studies, it can be a justification otherwise it can't be.

2. Line 17 says "However, it is significantly lower than the finding from Sudan (40%) . Are you sure that the figure of a study done in Sudan?

3. Qualitative data have to be discussed

4. Avoid repetition.

Conclusion

1. Line 12-14 says "The main Reasons for non-utilization of preconception care is mostly because of didn't know as there was such a service." As it is not your objective, no need of conclusion.

2. At last you have to write your recommendation, so put your general recommendation here.

Tables and figures

1. Table 1

1. line 25 says "others =6.1%. if other is ≥5%, it has to be specifically written.

2. line 47 similar comment.

3. line 48-51= monthly income have to be converted to US dollar.

2 Table 2

1 Line 10-14 //the summation of number of pregnancy is 410 i.e all of the participants had history of pregnancy? Didn't you include those who hadn't history of pregnancy? If yse, modify the inclusion criteria.

Lines. 15 says "Number of live birth(n=399)" how about

3. Table 3
Is it participants' response about the availability and accessibility of health facility? If yes, the title has to be modified.

4. figures.

1. figures are not necessary because ideas indicated in figures have already been written in text forms.

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