Reviewer’s report

Title: Talking Health: trusted health messengers and effective ways of delivering health messages for rural Mothers in Southwest Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 21 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Takele Demie

Reviewer's report:

My comments on the manuscript include the followings among others;

Title and cover page

I prefer if the title is modified some what. Page 1, Line number 9: Could it be maternal health? Also it is better to include Southwest Ethiopia.

In general, I prefer if the Title could be "Talking Health: trusted health messengers and effective ways of delivering maternal health messages for rural Mothers in Southwest Ethiopia"

Authors Affiliation/Information

Why you repeat these information here on the cover page (page-1, from line-12 up to page 2, line 9) and under Authors information title? if you put a section for "Authors information", you do not need to write/repeat the affiliations of all authors on the cover page, except for the corresponding author.

Also you need to use punctuation appropriately while writing the Authors affiliations, that is the use of Comma (,) should be revised [page-1, line-12 after Shiferaw Asfaw and after Lakew Abebe; Comma is needed after the name Manisha Kulikarmni.

Replace the word "Instituts" in the affiliations of all authors with "Institute" (Page-1, Line-17,30, 36 and 43). Also I think all the authors are from one Department, Institute, Faculty and University; i.e They are from Department of Health, Behavior and Society, Institute of Health, Faculty of Public Health and Jimma University except the last three. So, write them in similar fashion. Their affiliations can also be summarized as one for those authors. You can put the level of educ. in brackets in front of each authors. I prefer if you give number for the authors and summarize their affiliations into the two universities unless it is too long.

Page-2, Line-13-17, summarize and remove repetition; Jimma is repeated
Summary

Background

The objective should be revised. Replace the word "aims" with "aimed" (Page-2, Line-27-29). Line 32, include punctuation after Ethiopia

Methods

remove unnecessary space immediately after Methods and before "An" (Line-37). Replace Twenty-four with "twenty four", i.e., remove hyphen.

Result

I am not clear with the first statement. Would you mean the investigators/researchers identified...? in place of "participants identified..." (Line-48/49). Or could it be "HEWs and HDA were identified as trusted health messengers for rural mothers."

Better to use Home to home than house to house (line-55) and also in the document. Also line-58/59, after "Government", period (punctuation) is needed.

Conclusion

page-3, Line-5, it says, The findings of this study suggest that HEWs are a credible messenger for health messaging in rural Ethiopia, especially when using an interpersonal message delivery approach, what about the HDA?

Keywords (Page-3)

I think it is better to remove "Channel" and add "talking Health, Health messages, and messengers" rather

Better to include/add "talking health", "Health messengers" and "Health messages" to got this publication easily in search engines in case it published

Background

It is Better rather if you change in to Introduction Page-3, Line-36): change the first word of the statement into "Interpersonal"
Page-4, Line-18-51): the last paragraph is too large, please break this paragraph into two, you can break it at "Therefore" line-29.

Page-4, Line-34-42: I think it is better to remove this one; unless it may be not clear or confusing for the reader. Actually what is its importance? unless it needs more elaboration.

Page-4, Line-41-45: summarize this statement with the following (next) statement.

Research questions

It is good to have research questions. But, what about research objectives? Don`t you think it is not needed?

Concerning the second research question, do you think that you addressed it well. Have you answered this research question? I didn`t get a section in the result which answer this RQ? I do not think it is well addressed, so, it needs revision.

Methods

Study setting

In my opinion; this needs further elaboration considering some important issues to be included in study area/setting. To make it more informative, Number of health care workers including HEWs and HDA; number of health constitutions in each districts and population size should be included. Who are the sources of health information in the Zone or districts?

Page-5, Line 14, "Jimma is 346 kilometers from Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia" is better if changed to "Jimma town, whcih is the capital of Jimma zone, is 346 Kms far away from AA..."

Line-16-17 on the same page should be edited.

Research approach

Put punctuation at the end of the paragraph (line-43).

Sample size and technique

Change "individual interviews" into "individual depth-interview or IDI"

The foot note on this page should be finished on the same page if possible (starting from line-55)
Data Collection and Analysis

It necessary to cite some of those references (literature reviewed) to develop IDI and FGD guides by Researchers (cite those reference at the end of the first statement after the word childbirth.

Page-6, Line-30, Please replace the phrase "data gathering" with "data collection"

The last statement under this sub-section, which says "The summaries presented below reflect both widely-expressed ideas, as well as novel ideas that were mentioned less frequently." is not clear. What does summarizes presented below mean?

Maintaining Research Trustworthiness

The statement on line-10/11 may not be clear for general readers, please make it pleasurable for the general reader, particularly "reflectivity" and "bracketing methods" is not clear.

The duration of the interviews and discussions ranged from 45 to 90 minutes (prolonged engagement). Does this assure prolonged engagement? In addition to interviewer notes, researchers used observation as a method of data triangulation. If you used observation as additional data collection method, this needs to clarified in the method section and the result of observation should be included in the results/findings.

Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

How many participants were participated in total and in FGD and IDI separately? I think this information is important. How many Male and female participants? Educational level of the participants? Income is also important since it may indicate/help to estimate the economic level of the participants. I prefer if you summarize these variable and those which you present as additional information together in one table.

Also edit the paragraph under this section for English language (grammar, punctuation).

Please replace the word Catagory" with "category"

Please indicate the quotes you used to illustrate the themes whether they were from the IDI or FGD participants. Not only for this sub-section but also throughout the result section.
"Most participants... ", you can also consider and present the frequency of coding

Under category 2

Better to put the word "Garee" and Shanee" in quotation

Theme-2: Preferred Messaging

Category-1: Interpersonal Approach

Add some other quotas from each other group. One quota is not enough. Reconsider to add more quotas for this sub-section. You put interpersonal means of communication as preferred one; but less described here in the result section. it should be more elaborated.

Page-11, Line-34-36: the TEJ should be putted in quotation as "TEJ"

Under Discussion

Page-12, Line-15/16: Add Southwest Ethiopia and Correct it as ".... in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia."

Line-20 replace the word "principle" with "principal"

Line-43, paragraph two, better to change "house-to-house" to "home-to-home"

Line-49, studies should be changed to study, unless you should have to cite more references. Similarly, for the word on line 27 on page 13.

Page-14, Line-41-45: this statement should be edited and revised again.

Limitation of the Study (Page-15)

I prefer rather if you present both the limitation and strength of the study together.

Line-5-7: the sentence about "The finding of qualitative research may not be applied for general population", should be revised. Could it be "The finding of this study..."

Line-9-10: could it be social desirability bias? It better if change this statement to whether the study was influenced by social desirability bias or not.

Line-12/13: Please change the word "discretion" to "description". Punctuation (,) should also be used between words; engagement and memo.

Line-14/15 (last statement): Which type of triangulation is this one? Do you mean method triangulation? Better to specify the type of triangulation used in this study. You also mentioned
observation as data collection method. Is it triangulated with IDI and FGD methods. Make a revision; either you remove ideas about observation from methods section under "maintaining trustworthiness" sub-section or add it here.

Conclusion (page-15)

Second statement (Line-22): please remove the word "overall", I think it is not necessary. You said, "Most participants prefer to get health information from HEWs through interpersonal interactions. How many? How you can say most? How many FGD discussants? How many IDI participants?"

The last statement (Line-28-31) should be rephrased as "The HEWs should be motivated through provision of training and educational opportunity."

My general comment for this section is that, you entirely focused on HEWs and ignored the rest information sources. Conclusion should actually made from main results or findings. Please reconsider this case.

Acknowledgement

For which of their contribution the authors acknowledged the following individuals "Getachew Kiros, Kunuz Hajibedru, Corinne Parker, Yisalemush Assefa and Jaameeta Kurji? Actually their contribution should be specified and apparently known.

The funding organization should also be acknowledged for funding.

Funding

Authors should acknowledge these organizations (Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)) for funding if so under the acknowledgement section.

The statement followed the funding section (on the top of Page-16, Line-3-5) should be part of the acknowledgement section.

Authors' contributions

Please edit the first statement for language, the second sentence for space between words (authors short names). Replace the the word "on" (Line-20/21) with "to the ...", the phrase "...writing up the manuscript" with "write up of the manuscript", and "....approved final" with "...

All authors have read and agreed to the final manuscript."

Ethics approval and consent to participate
Write separately the consent you applied for different participants. Which consent was applied on which participants (page-16, Line-28).

Authors' information

Why you repeat these information here and on the cover page? If you put a section for "Authors information", you do not need to write the affiliations of all authors on the cover page, except for the corresponding author. Otherwise, you should have to edit for grammar and use of punctuation as well as for institutional affiliation.

Reference

Reference should be replaced with "References" to make it plural.

The last reference (Page-19), could it be written in lower case?

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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:

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