

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Social differentiation and embodied dispositions: A qualitative study of maternal care-seeking behaviour for near-miss morbidity in Bolivia

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 27 March 2009

**Reviewer:** Jos Guilherme Cecatti

### **Reviewer's report:**

This is an excellent and well conducted study on a hot and updated topic, showing that health care-seeking behaviour of Bolivian pregnant women experiencing near miss morbidity is conditioned by social differentiation. Although these characteristics could be specific for the ethnic composition of the population included in the study, the results are important for weighting all the aspects involved in care-seeking behaviour in different contexts, specially when considering programme interventions to reduce barriers. Therefore this article should undoubtedly be published

#### Major compulsory revisions:

I would like to have a justification from the authors why there is no one Bolivian professional involved in the authorship of this paper. It is difficult to understand and accept that the full study had been performed and finished without any substantial participation of national people. Something similar can be seen in reference number 35, another qualitative study performed in Guatemala.

#### Minor Essential Revisions:

**Abstract:** in the background, refer what criteria for defining severe obstetric morbidity (near miss) were used.

**Background,** 4th paragraph, lines 10-11: "...40% of all Bolivian women continue to give birth without skilled birth attendance". Does this mean "at home"?

**Methods session, Study setting,** first paragraph: it is said that the criteria used for the definition of near miss morbidity were those from Filippi et al. I would suggest to include a short list of these criteria to facilitate the understanding of what is being considered, taking into account the diversity of concepts used worldwide.

**Population and data collection,** first paragraph: Why 30 subjects? What means they are "strategically" selected? Although I have no reasons to doubt of the capacity of the first author with Spanish, it is difficult to understand how a Swedish male researcher could really have a real good interview with Spanish speaking women, specially those with low literacy. It is also said that the interviews were not recorded in accordance with the preferences of most women. Was this really tested? In my experience even working with very poor and illiterate people, they prefer to have their speech recorded instead of notes being taken.

Discretionary Revisions:

None

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests