

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Adolescent and adult first time mothers' health seeking practices during pregnancy and early motherhood in Wakiso district, central Uganda

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 14 October 2008

**Reviewer:** Joao Paulo Souza

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

This is an interesting piece of work, that contributes to the understanding of the burden of a pregnancy during adolescence in Africa. Some minor revisions are, however, needed:

Title: consider shortening

Abstract: OK

Background: In the second paragraph, please consider revising the sentence "one problem in sub-Saharan Africa is ...". Perhaps, it would be more appropriate to state: "In sub-Saharan Africa, even where services are available, many pregnant women..."

In the third paragraph, please provide a specific reference to the sentence "Maternal and neonatal conditions contribute 20 percent..." The reference cited - 16 - may be more related to the Uganda's National HSSP II.

Methods: Please use consistently the term multi-stage (or multistage). Please provide a reference to the sampling techniques. Two data entry softwares are cited (EPED and EPIDATA) with no references (please provide details similarly to STATA).

As regards to the questionnaire, further details should be provided and the questionnaire itself could be presented as annex. Concerning to the "self and community perception" of inappropriate dressing, additional details should be provided.

RESULTS: In general, the authors should avoid presenting in the text the same data provided in the tables. However, when doing so, the use of decimals should be consistent (if presenting in the table the age as 17.9 years, this is the figure that should be presented in the text). The caesarean section rate can be an useful indicator of process. Is this information available? If yes, please provide.

Both in the text and in the table, the information on education attainment should be evaluated considering the effect of age. Adolescents may not be able to reach post secondary education because of their age. As regards to the school drop out, the better would be to consider only those who were studying at the beginning of the pregnancy. Then, we could make a stronger inference on the relationship between pregnancy and school drop out.

**DISCUSSION:** In this section the authors should avoid repeating unnecessarily the data provided in the results section. My suggestion is to keep the repetition at the minimum essential, please revise accordingly.

The last sentence of second paragraph is an inference that should be better supported by the evidence or the findings. Perhaps, if the authors change to "This may imply that sexual education is still lacking..." the sentence will be more acceptable.

In the sixth paragraph, the authors suggest that the increase in the delivery assistance by skilled professionals could be partially attributed to the existence of an extensive social network in the community towards the onset of labour. I am wondering whether this network would not be already active before.

**FIGURE:** needs revision. There in the right hand side of the figure, there is some missing text. My suggestion is to change this figure to a classical flowchart.

**TABLES:** The position of the Yes and No categories (top/bottom) should be consistent among the tables.

**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