**COVER LETTER**

17th March, 2015

The Executive Editor

The African Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM)

University of South Africa

6-178 Theo van Wyk

Preller Street

Muckleneuk

0003

South Africa

Dear Sir,

Re: AJNM-2014-029 **SOCIAL-CULTURAL DETERMINANTS OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING; LESSONS LEARNT FROM EXPERIENCES OF HIV-POSITIVE MOTHERS IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

Reference is made to the above. This letter serves to inform you that I have responded to the reviewers’ comments and I hope that it is to the expected level required for the journal. In case of any omissions I am ready to provide feedback.

***Corresponding author***

Alice Ngoma**-**Hazemba, RM, MPH

University of KwaZulu Natal, School of Nursing and Public Health, Howard College Campus, Durban, South Africa.

E-mail: alice\_hazemba@yahoo.com,

Tel.: +260955885285 (Zambia)/+27820655509 (South Africa)

Fax. + 260-211-250753.

The following comments from the reviewers were attended to:

**FEEDBACK TO THE REVIEWERS’ COMMENTS**

**Abstract**

The conclusion was rephrased to address breastfeeding as a cultural practice and the key words are written in alphabetical order.

**Introduction and background information**

Comments in the introduction related to use of current UN global estimates on HIV for 2013 as opposed to 2011 estimates. These estimates are presented on the excel spread sheet online. The page numbers where appropriate have been included. All the edits provided were noted and included in the final draft.

**Statement of the research problem**

Rephrased to reflect mixed feeding as a cultural norm that impacts breastfeeding.

**Objective**

The verb ‘assess’ was replaced with ‘explore’ because the study focus was not to measure knowledge but explore the social-cultural determinants of breastfeeding.

**The methodology**

As requested, the sample size has been explained, data collection procedures have additional detail to highlight areas of concern from reviewers. In addition, data management has been explained for clarity. The data collection tools have been briefly described.

**The results**

The suggested edits were noted and typographical errors were attended to. An extract from the focus group discussion with the community volunteers was added to strengthen the diversity of breastfeeding within the population studied.

**Discussion**

The first paragraph that was identified to be repetitive with the introduction was removed and the whole discussion has been realigned to give coherence of ideas and conclusions in responding to the research question.

**Recommendations**

As advised, effort was made to be very specific to the gaps identified in the research and especially integration of gate keepers in the community in the care of HIV-positive mothers and their HIP-exposed infants to ensure accountability.

**List of references**

This has been updated and formatted according to instructions for authors and the comments raised in the review.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the reviewers for bringing out critical issues in the article to provide a clear understanding of the problem researched. Included in the feedback is the draft with track changes, a formatted draft reflecting the title, abstract, manuscript and references.

Yours sincerely,



Alice Ngoma-Hazemba RM, MPH