

# Review of: "Factors influencing women's decision choosing a public or private health facility for tuberculosis (TB) services: An analysis of Nepal demographic and health survey data 2016"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This topic is important but I have some serious concerns. Please check my comments

## Abstract

In my opinion, background should state the role of women's decision in tuberculosis management and link the sentence with the objective.

"We believe the findings of the analysis will help policy makers and program managers to fine-tune an intervention plan focusing on these women who are less likely to prefer public health facilities for TB services." In conclusion this statement is very poor in support of the findings. Here authors talked about the importance of public health facilities. But the findings do not highlight anything in this regard.

## Introduction

There are lot of inconsistencies in the second and third paragraph of the intro. In the second para, authors stated the coverage and amount of facilities provided by the public and private health facilities, tried to compare both facilities by giving a high rank the public facilities. Suddenly in the third para, they talked about the factors that women do not make up mind to choose public sectors. In reality for every setting, people always prefer public sectors due to inexpensive nature. These two paras are highly inconsistent. I am bit confused with these wording what is the justification or rationale of the study?

## Methods

In my opinion, sampling and sample size should be explained broadly.

Dependent variable seems unclear. It's ok that preferred place for TB care has been considered as outcome. But my concern is how did author justify, who did not have TB but made their choice about the preferred place. Is it really justified to determine the factors associated with preferred place for TB care among women who did not have TB? If some of the respondents had TB and they were receiving TB care, the current study should stand on it. Because who does not have TB might be lacking of knowledge, awareness regarding TB and prospective TB care. If all women are TB patients, then

please mentioned it. I did not find any information regarding this.

## Results

I think authors should provide the percentage value for descriptive analysis, say, One-third (%).

Odds, 95% CI should be mentioned in data reporting and interpreting in Table 3, if authors really want to provide statements for simple logistic regression analysis.

Same for the interpretation for Table 4.

## Discussion

“To our knowledge, this is the first analysis of the NDHS 2016 women’s dataset focusing on the type of health facility preferred for a diagnosis and treatment of TB.” This sentence is bit weird.

“The results of the analysis suggest that the lack of TB knowledge, close distance to the health facility, younger age, women’s caste/ethnicity, unemployment, poverty, and difficult terrain were factors that significantly affected women’s choice of the type of health facility for the diagnosis and treatment of TB”. This is the statement authors provided in the first para of the discussion. But later on, the explanation throughout the discussion were inconsistent in shade of these findings. For example, authors said “lack of TB knowledge significantly affected women’s choice of the type of health facility for the diagnosis and treatment of TB” but explained “The present study shows that women having good TB knowledge were more likely to prefer the public health facility for

the diagnosis and treatment of TB” and same for other statements.

“The present TB study result reveals that women from the highest wealth groups were less likely to prefer a public health facility for the diagnosis and treatment of TB. A reason for not preferring the public health facility by the richest women could be a social stigma. A systematic review study results suggested that women diagnosed with TB disease faced more social challenges than men [20]. Another possibility of not preferring the public health facility by the richest women could be the women’s misunderstanding toward the public health services providers, because they may think the public service providers do not maintain the privacy of TB patients.” Imbalanced explanation and poor justification. Possible reasons could be, rich women prefer private hospitals for better service or lack of publicity or circulation of organized facilities of public settings. This is just an example....

Overall the paper need extensive modification in terms of quality and presentation.