



ISSN NO. 2320-5407

ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57518

Title: The Maternal and Child Health Handbook: A Pilot Study in Sierra Leone

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity				✓
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-198

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript reports a pilot of the MCH Handbook across three districts in Sierra Leone. While the topic is relevant and the intervention is meaningful, the manuscript has significant methodological and presentational weaknesses that must be addressed before publication.

Major Comments

- 1. Methodological Insufficiency** The study claims a "quasi-experimental design" but provides no statistical analysis whatsoever. There are no p-values, confidence intervals, or regression outputs. Percentage comparisons (81% vs. 68%) are reported without any test of significance, making it impossible to draw valid conclusions.
- 2. Sample Size Discrepancy** The abstract targets 500 clients (470 intervention; 76 control) but also states "76 control," which totals 546 — inconsistent with the stated target. This must be clarified and a CONSORT-style flow diagram provided.
- 3. Weak Control Group** The control group (n=76, two facilities) is substantially smaller than the intervention group, introducing severe selection bias. No justification is given for this imbalance.
- 4. Absence of Ethical Approval** No mention of ethical clearance, IRB approval, or informed consent procedures appears anywhere in the manuscript — a fundamental omission.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

5. Unclear Outcome Measures Primary and secondary outcomes are never formally defined. The study conflates process indicators (handbook use, attendance) with health outcomes without distinction.

Minor Comments

- The Introduction is repetitive; WHO 2018 guidelines and implementation challenges are described twice in near-identical language (lines 41–67).
- Case stories, while illustrative, are anecdotal and lack methodological grounding. Their role in a quasi-experimental study should be explicitly justified.
- The writing requires thorough English language editing throughout.