Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of lack of reproductive rights with depression among females. A hospital based case control study

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2009

Reviewer: Marleen Bosmans

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) The author is continuously mixing up the use of the terminology "reproductive rights", "sexual rights", "sexual and reproductive rights".

2) Although there is no clear, universally accepted definition of sexual and reproductive rights, it is advisable though to point out what definition is being used. I advise the author to refer to the working definitions developed by WHO.

3) According to the WHO working definitions, the author is referring to "sexual rights", and much less to "reproductive rights."

4) It is important in the analyse to refer to all aspects of "sexual rights" and not just to some, as these rights are - like all human rights - "integral and indivisible."

5) The author should also be more precise when he talks about the violation of women's sexual rights: are these rights recognized by the government? are there legislations/policies protecting women's sexual right? how are they violated? Do the women perceive the violation as a violation of their rights? etc.

6) The authors fails to address the violation of sexual rights within the broader context of gender-based violence and how they are combined with other forms of violence. The violation of sexual rights is not a stand-alone phenomenon. I recommend to have a look at the ecological model of violence, which can be found in the WHO report on violence).

7) in the Conclusions, the author refers to gender inequalities and recommends to eliminate these. Nowhere in the paper, however, the link between violation of sexual rights and gender inequalities has been described.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests