Reviewer's report

Title: Association of various reproductive rights, domestic violence and marital rape with depression among Pakistani women.

Version: 4 Date: 21 August 2009

Reviewer: Hyungjin Kim

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The terminology “sexual rights” is still not clearly defined, but used in the Abstract and Conclusion.

In Methods, fifth paragraph of page 6 can use a rewrite. For example, it says, “for quantitative variables, quartile analysis was done to check linearity of the variable”, but linearity is a relationship between two variables, and it is unclear which two variables are being looked at to check for linearity. It is also not clear what is meant by “categories were made by checking the significance of each variable as quartile or dichotomous variable and subsequently cell counts were checked for sparse data, which if found, the variable was further grouped.” Isn’t it that you cannot have sparse data when the variables are grouped into quartiles since by definition each quartile contains 25% of the data? Also if there are sparse data, wouldn’t the usual solution be to further collapse the variable rather than to further group the variable?

In Results, response rate is reported to be 96%. This rate is better described as participation rate.

The two sentences in the second paragraph of page 8 directly interpreting the adjusted odds ratios need to be re-written. The first sentence says, “…taking the option ‘myself with spouse or someone else’ as the reference category, the odds of cases marrying on the decision of their parents or on the decision of family members other than their parents were higher than controls”. The odds ratio is the ratio of odds of being depressed in the exposed relative to odds of being depressed in the unexposed where exposure here is marrying on the decision of parents. It is not about odds of cases marrying on the decision of others compared with controls, as it currently written. Similar correction needs to be made for the second sentence as well.

The last paragraph says there was no biological interaction. What is meant by the biological interaction here?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.