Reviewer's report

Title: Male gender preference, female gender disadvantage as risk factors for psychological morbidity in Pakistani women of childbearing age - a life course perspective

Version: 2 Date: 31 May 2011

Reviewer: Robert Meadows

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Discretionary Revisions

1) Whilst this is a very well written paper, it is never entirely clear what the research question/hypothesis is/are. In the abstract the hypothesis is stated as "among women or childbearing age, gender disadvantage is an independent risk factor for PM'. Throughout the paper we also get "to test the model that gender disadvantage is a life course phenomenon" & "identify independent associations between socio-demographic, socio-economic and gender disadvantage variables". I would encourage the authors to specify the research question/hypothesis more clearly at the end of the introduction.

2) Related to point 1) - it is never entirely clear why the authors developed a pathway model, then a SEM model, then used ordinal regression. There is usually a close link between the development of the pathway model and the movement to the SEM (latent) model (for example, a little more than simply "next we developed a structural..."). The ordinal model also seems a little 'too much'. I would suggest more information on the development of pathway/SEM and remove the ordinal from the paper.

3) I would be interested to know how the areas were allocated to interviewers (one per area? possible interviewer influence? etc)

4) I very much appreciate the fact that the authors clearly identify the cut-off for a satisfactory TLI etc. However, I would encourage them to reflect a little more on the fact that model(s) run did come out slightly lower.Page 15 (limitations) makes no mention.

4) is the marital satisfaction figure in table 1 correct? -0.7(8.5)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests