Reviewer’s report

Title: Domestic violence against women in Eastern Sudan.

Version: 2 Date: 4 September 2014

Reviewer: Hunniya Waseem

Reviewer’s report:

B. Major compulsory revisions
Nil

C. Minor Essential Revisions:

There are some language and sentence structure errors that need to be addressed before publication:

1. In the results section of the abstract, in the eighth sentence “women reported that they experience divorce threat and marriage threat”, it needs to be clarified if they experience re-marriage or second marriage threat. In existing sentence structure this is not very clear.

2. In the first sentence of the background, perhaps an ‘is’ is needed where domestic violence is defined. The sentence should be ‘Domestic violence is defined as .....

3. In the 13th sentence on page 3 where the gender theory is discussed the sentence needs revision

4. In the 21st sentence on page 3, the sentence should be “To our knowledge no available data on domestic violence against women in Sudan exists.” Please add this word.

5. The last sentence of the background can also benefit from a revision in sentence structure.

6. In the eligibility criteria of the article on page 4, please revise the third sentence, it is not clear, starting from ‘again women were illegible .....

7. In the second last sentence of the eligibility criteria on page 5 perhaps the word,” woman” needs to be inserted. “If no eligible woman was encountered,,,,

8. In the data collection section, third line perhaps it can be rewritten as “after obtaining written consent, self-structured questionnaires .....

9. On fourth line of this section, the sentence can be corrected as We started to fill ....” rather than we stated.

10. In the sixth sentence of this section the aim of the study was well understood rather than ‘is well understood.

11. In the 17th sentence of this section a capital P is needed for psychological violence.

12. On page 6 in the results section perhaps the first sentence should read “A
total of 1009 women were enrolled rather than ‘had been enrolled’.

13. In the last sentence of this section on page 7 the last sentence again needs clarification regarding “divorce threat and marriage threat.”

14. On 7th page, in the Discussion section, in the 4th sentence it should read as “The data was collected by female students who lived in the same state and were well respected and trusted in the community.

15. On page 8, 5th sentence should perhaps be reconstructed as “our findings indicate poor socio-economic circumstance contribute significantly to domestic violence against women”.

16. The 8th sentence on this page needs revision to express the meaning better, starting from “Although it’s against Islamic teachings, domestic violence against wives if often justified by the woman’s misbehavior or disobedience.

17. Please revise the 9-12th sentence on this page to convey your meaning better.

18. In the 22nd sentence on page 8, the of course should be omitted.

19. This whole sentence needs further revision especially from ‘although it is not yet an accepted behavior…..

20. Perhaps there should be a separate section for the “Limitations”.

21. The fifth sentence on page 9 starting from Limitations needs correction in sentence structure.

22. In the Conclusions section: a capital T is needed for “this study.

23. Perhaps the conclusion section can be broken into two sentences rather than one.

D. Discretionary Revision:

A suggestion is to perhaps add the present laws existent in Sudan related to Domestic violence and which ministry or part of government is responsible for women health and welfare. This can be added in the discussion section and contribute to the knowledge of the reader. Also the religious perception has only been discussed briefly. I feel it will be beneficial for the readers’s understanding if religious and cultural factors regarding domestic violence are discussed.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’