Reviewer's report

Title: A qualitative study of factors affecting mental health amongst low-income working mothers in Bangalore, India.

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2014

Reviewer: Helen Herrman

Reviewer's report:

This paper is a valuable and well presented contribution to the literature on women's mental health in low-income countries. The implications of the findings are well drawn from mental health policy in India and other countries. The background is well presented and the aims stated clearly. The methods including the ethical aspects of the study are adequately described and the results presented in an engaging and useful manner. The discussion gives a very useful set of suggestions about the relevance of the findings for mental health policy. The writing is good.

I have several suggestions for the authors

Minor essential revisions

The limitations of the study need to be mentioned as well as its strengths.

In reporting a cross-sectional study it is not possible to make causal attributions and distracting to see this in a few places. I suggest edit to avoid unwarranted statements of causation e.g. last line p2, Abstract "Factors that reduced anxiety and depression were..."; p 19 "negative working conditions also affected .."; p 23 "...this can push.."; p 24 "...was one of the most frequent causes of poor mental health ..". And where causation is described by interviewees to ensure it is reported as such e.g. p 12 'The resolution of some or all of the stressors brought improvements in their mental health state'; and p 16 'Roona's circumstances had resulted in chronic depression and two suicide attempts' need editing to attribute the causal attribution to the subjects.

the process of translating and transcribing the interviews into English needs description.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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