Reviewer's report

Title: "We no longer live in the old days": A qualitative study on men's view on masculinity and violence within marriage in rural Java, Indonesia.

Version: 1 Date: 15 September 2013

Reviewer: Jane Chiu

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Minor essential revision

1. The research questions are well-described. The researcher used “focus group” as data collection is appropriate in this study as well as inviting community leaders as informants.

2. The methods are appropriate and well-described in the context, however, it maybe not provide sufficient details to replicate.

3. The results showed that sociopolitical transit is also predicted.

4. The moderators in this study were two males which was a proper arrangement since this target population is basically male-dominant society. However, if there’s a female moderator attended the discussion, the results were quite different?

5. The recruited community leaders are all male and the researchers certainly had their rationale to do so. However, if the information gathering can include female participants (including the younger generation) will certainly balance the data collection.

6. The researcher did not specify “whose” opinions were shown from different focus groups and this probably may omit some important characteristics of the participants (such as their age-cohort or if they’re actually involved in a marital conflict), thus obscured the results. Even though the results showed that there were 3 positions (e.g., traditionalist, pragmatist, and egalitarian) of masculinity, is it possible due to the different generation/age-cohort?

7. The researchers suggested that public education on gender-equality is necessary, so is female’s self-protection/prevention education.

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.