Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors influencing the use of reproductive health care services among married adolescent girls in Dang District, Nepal: a qualitative study.

Authors:

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Version: 1 Date: 29 Nov 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1

1. Please revise the title to portray the qualitative nature of the paper

Response: Revised accordingly.

2. Line 42 - "woman" should have been "women"

Response: corrected

3. Line 47 - revise the sentence to enhance its clarity

Response: Has been edited.

4. Line 59 - "child" should have been "children" –

Response: Corrected

5. Lines 62 & 63 - in addition to the statement, explain the importance of the reduction in the text

Response: we have added: This indicates that Nepal has made significant progress in preventing marriage among girls but there is still a long way to go before child marriage is ended.
6. Line 67 - instead of "adolescent girls", will suggest "female adolescents" and please be consistent with the use of one or the other.

Response: we prefer ‘adolescent girls’ as do UNICEF, World Bank and others.

7. Lines 87 & 88 - you refer to "women" - are these the same "adolescent girls" or they are another group. Please be consistent with the use of expressions

Response: ‘Women has been replaced by ‘these girls and young women’ as it may include women married and got pregnant as adolescents but who have become 20 years old.

8. Lines 95 & beyond - there will be the need to revise the methods section to be more "methodological" - starting with study design, study sites, study population, study sample, study sample and sampling approach, data collection techniques/methods and tools, data analysis, etc. It will be best to state each of the sub-sections and briefly but clearly describe them.

Also provide some information on ethical considerations and the ethical approval number ??

Response: the method section has been revised to be more in line with the reviewer’s suggestion. A paragraph on ethics has been added.

9. Lines 107 - 111 - could you provide the reasons in the text for initially using "IDIs" and later "FGDs" on the same sample. That would be helpful.

Response: there seems to be a misunderstanding due to the heading. The text has been revised

10. Lines 127 & beyond - this should be part of the results section

Response: corrected

11. Line 136 - Is Malterud the author of this strategy? He performed a review of the method - wondering if that makes him the "owner" of the strategy. Secondly, explain in the text why and how you applied this strategy to your analysis instead of others

Response: we have taken out Malterud’s name from the text and explain that this is method developed to analyse qualitative data.

12. Lines 144 - 145 - how was the concept of triangulation used in your analysis?

Response: this text has been moved up to show how triangulation was used in data collection.
13. Lines 146 - 147 - to my understanding, "methods of data collection" should be based on their appropriateness to address the "study objectives" and not for the sake of "validity" - please clarify:

Response: we have moved and revised the text.

14. Lines 147 - 150 - please revise the statements to make clearer

Response: as for comment 12 and 13 we have moved and revised the text.

15. Line 157 - the first category seems to be so diverse... would suggest fragmenting this further... "health and illness" could be a category and the others fit into others. Also would it not be in the right direction to provide "overviews" of the "main categories" before discussing the "sub-categories"?

Response: the text has been revised and reorganized. We have left out the subcategories.

16. Line 177 - "insisting me to work" could have been "insisting on me working"

Response: corrected

17. Line 193 - "they insisted me to have a baby" should have been "they insisted on me having a baby" instead

Response: corrected

18. Line 474 & beyond - The discussion section should be orderly and follow in the stead of the themes identified.

Response: the section has been reorganized accordingly

19. Please read over the write-up and correct some grammatical errors in the script

Response: the text has been corrected by a copy-editor

Reviewer 2:

Study Site:
Information about the study site is scanty. […]

Background information or characteristics of the sample population is also scanty.

Response: more info has been added.

When were the interviews and FGDs done? How long did it take the researchers to conduct the interviews and transcribe them (duration of the study)?

How were the interviews conducted? Were they conducted in the local language and later transcribed to English or they were conducted in English? Who conducted the interviews? Were there trained personnel/field staff? Were the interviews audio recorded? All these information need to be included in the manuscript.

Response: more info has been added.

What is the reason for selecting only 4 VDCs from the Dang District for the interviews out of a total of 31 VDCs? Were the communities selected based on their size; access to health facilities; to reflect district differences in terms of education, socioeconomic characteristics or ethnicity? These reasons need to be stated in the methods section.

Response: more information has been added.

Line 150: Under study site: use of "my" (first person singular) should be avoided. I believe the work was done by a team of researchers.

Response: corrected

FGD conducted:

How many women were in each Focus group for the discussion? Were they selected purposively?

Response: more info has been added.

Line 235-236: A quote from one of the participants (FGD 3). Please state the person who gave that quote. E.g. ….. A mother with child under 5 years or a 17 year old who gave birth at 15 years. This will help put the quote into perspective.

Line 256-257: The participant said she realized she was pregnant after 6-7 months of pregnancy. I presume the authors meant 6-7 months after delivery. Please check and correct that.
Response. The text has been changed to “she realized she was pregnant in the sixth or seventh month of pregnancy”.

Results:

It will be good for the authors to help readers get a sense of the population sampled. The authors can present the background information or characteristics of the sample participants in a tabular form. …

Response: The participants have very similar characteristics (rural, poor, same gender, almost same, same education level) and we think a table will not add useful information.

The results can be grouped into facilitators and barriers as stated in the secondary objectives. The main objective of the manuscript is talking about factors influencing the use of Reproductive Health Care Services which is both positive and negative factors. E.g. all the facilitators that let the women seek care at the health facilities should be stated. Likewise the barriers. As it stands now, everything is mixed up so it doesn't make the reading of the manuscript interesting. The authors can rearrange the results section to help readers follow what they want to say.

Response: the section has been reorganized and we emphasize more which factors are barriers and facilitators but prefer to organize the text according to our categories.

E.g. On line 302-306, an FGD participant talked about why she didn't go to the health facility to deliver because a doctor scolded her. Then she or someone came in to say she could not breastfeeding because she was aching all over. Quotes should be presented individually and not put together. I think the whole results sections should be reorganized.

Response: The section has been partly reorganized and we emphasize more clearly which factors are facilitators and barriers.

Discussion:

The authors should be mindful of the objectives and address them in the discussion. The main objective of the study is to explore and increase knowledge on health care seeking practices among married adolescent girls in Nepal. The factors have been explored but there is no suggestion or ways to increase the knowledge of these women who participated in the study. The authors can come up with suggestions to the policy makers on how the knowledge of the women can be improved on health care seeking especially on reproductive health services.
For example, the authors can suggest that any policies to promote adolescent reproductive health seeking behavior must address the poor knowledge among some women on the importance of seeking early care and the community perception about home deliveries and accessing reproductive health care services.

Response: we have expanded the section ‘Recommendations and conclusion’ to add text on implications.

If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested,

Response: this was not requested but the text has been submitted to a professional copy editor.