Reviewer’s report

Title: Villains or victims? An ethnography of Afghan maternity staff and the challenge of high quality respectful care

Version: 0 Date: 01 May 2019

Reviewer: Preeti Kumari Mahato

Reviewer's report:

1. Perhaps a sentence about what background interview means is needed. As a researcher and reader, I am more familiar with structured and semi-structured interview but not familiar what background interview is and why it was needed to do in addition to semi-structured interviews?

2. It would be good if we know little bit more about interviews and focus group discussions, such as how many participants were there in in focus groups, how long were the interviews etc. It is important to know how many women participants were there and if they had used or not used the services from this hospital.

3. For consistency, after each quote the person stating it should be mentioned in brackets. It has been done in many but not all.

4. Are the results obtained from conducting this study in one hospital in Kabul generalisable to whole of Afghanistan or even South Asia. If yes it needs to be explained, maybe providing references from other such studies conducted in this region.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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