Reviewer’s report

Title: Attempted suicide of ethnic minority girls with a Caribbean and Cape Verdean background: Rates and risk factors

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Reviewer: Alberto Bocchetta

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper on attempted suicide in Dutch adolescent girls.

However, the discussion and conclusion are not consistent with the results shown:

a) Indeed, the principal data regard the "native" Dutch girls;

b) some important risk factors (sexual abuse and emotional problems) are independent of ethnicity (Table 3 and 4);

c) not living with two biological parents is a risk factor only for "native " Dutch girls, as is in part aggressive behaviour (Table 3 and 4);

d) as the majority of ethnic minority girls have a low educational level (Table 1), I suggest to show a comparison with "native" Dutch girls of a similar educational level. In this case, the differences across ethnic groups vanish (Dutch 287/2018 = 14.2%; Creole-Surinamese 16/99 = 16.2%; Antillean 44/320 = 13.7%).

Conclusion

The present study indicates that the apparently increased propensity to suicidal behaviour of Caribbean Dutch girls compared to Dutch native girls can be explained by their differences in socio-economic status and education…..

….Therefore, the impact of social class disadvantages and demographic features underpins the need for suicide prevention programs that would target socio-economic and educational disparities in both native and Caribbean Dutch groups.

Additional remarks

There are several citations of differences between ethnic groups defined by their skin colour. I understand that this is due the administrative classifications commonly used in the US and UK.
There are reports of how such classifications are not scientifically appropriate (for example Bhopal and Donaldson. White, European, Western, Caucasian, or what? Inappropriate labelling in research on race, ethnicity, and health. Am J Public Health. 1998 Sep;88(9):1303-7). I would remark such an inappropriate labelling by quotation marks (as already done by the authors by citing … single-parent families "western style"…) or using other terms (for example: … studies among its majority ("white") populations….; …."Black British" women aged 16 to 34 ….; … In the US, African-American young females … compared to comparison young US women (Eaton et al., 2011); … reported among "black" female adolescents European populations ….; "Black British" girls (Maynard, Harding & Minnis…).

**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.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**

If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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