Reviewer’s report

Title: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Coping Strategies among Adult Survivors of Earthquake, Nepal

Version: 0 Date: 22 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Gerard Clarke

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Exposure to traumatic events is frequently associated with the emergence of psychopathology, with Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) the most frequently reported among survivors. The current study focuses specifically on the survivors of an earthquake in the Nuwakot district of Nepal. A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out on 291 adult survivors and the authors report that PTSD was prevalent among 24.10% of adult survivors. They also found that the emergence of PTSD was significantly associated with age, sex, education and injury, while the elderly, females, illiterates and those who were injured during earthquake are at more risk.

This is a straightforward study with some interesting observations. I have the following comments:

(1) As the authors acknowledge in the limitations section, only a provisional diagnosis of PTSD has been made. This makes it difficult to accurately compare and contrast with previously published studies - this important caveat needs to be reinforced throughout the discussion and not just in the limitations at the end. For example, the authors note that many other studies revealed that age was not associated with PTSD after an earthquake. Could the diagnostic limitation impact on this or are there other reasons that can be identified to explain the differences between the studies?

(2) I also have some concerns about the validation of the questionnaires used although the authors indicate that the ‘..Validity and reliability of both tools have been documented'. What does documented mean - has it been published and peer reviewed?

(3) Did the participants have prior exposure to other natural disasters? This is an important consideration since the authors report that age was associated with PTSD after the earthquake in contrast to many previous reports. Notwithstanding my point above about the possibility of different diagnoses in these studies, perhaps this finding is confounded by aged individuals experience more prior trauma?

(4) The authors suggest that ‘. males are more confident with their capabilities for handling the problem and to face the difficulties and challenges in relation to their counterparts'. Do they have any evidence to support this speculation?
(5) The manuscript would also benefit from careful proofreading by an experienced English speaker to improve the grammar.

(6) The authors state that 'Ethical approval was obtained from The Institutional Review Board Tribhuvan University, Institute of Medicine'. Please provide details of this approval number, date etc.

**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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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