Reviewer’s report

Title: Workplace sexual harassment and depressive symptoms: a cross-sectional multilevel analysis comparing harassment from clients or customers to harassment from other employees amongst 7603 Danish employees from 1041 organizations

Version: 0 Date: 20 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Nicola Magnavita

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The study of Friborg et al. explores in depth the consequences of sexual harassment on victims' health. The comparison between violence exerted by colleagues and customers is the most original part of this study. Previous studies, however, had already identified some difference in psychological consequences of colleague's harassing behaviour in comparison with harassment perpetrated by a patient.

In a retrospective survey conducted in three Italian university schools of nursing, nurses reported more sexual harassment (OR 2.3, 95% CI 1.15-5.54) during the previous 12 months than students. Students, however, often reported harassment from colleagues, staff, teachers, doctors, and supervisors. This form of non-physical violence was associated with high levels of psychological problems, as measured by the 12-item version of the General Health Questionnaire, in both students and nurses [Magnavita N, Heponiemi T. Workplace violence against nursing students and nurses: an Italian experience. J Nurs Scholarsh. 2011 Jun;43(2):203-10.].

Among the hypotheses that explain the increased harmfulness Authors must also discuss the duration of the behaviour. Prolonged sexual harassment may become stalking. When the harasser is a colleague or a superior he/she has a lot of time, while clients/patients/customers have a generally brief affair with the victim.

Very minor observation. Line 277 "limited to to care", please correct

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?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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