Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and Predictors of Help-seeking for Women Exposed to Spousal Violence in India - a cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editor's comment 1: Ensure that all references and recommendations in your manuscript are up to date.

Author's response: Some additional references has been added with for example updated figures of the prevalence of spousal violence in India, the prevalence of Child marriage in India, and references to other studies on help-seeking for IPV/spousal violence. See "Other Changes" below.

Editor's comment 2: Please change the heading "Introduction" to "Background"

Author's response: The heading "Introduction" has been changed to "Background" in accordance to the suggestion. See p. 5.

Editor's comment 3: Please include a "Declarations" heading after the abbreviations and include the following sub-sections: "Consent for publication" and "Acknowledgements". Please put "not applicable" if these do not apply to your manuscript. Please see the bottom of this email for more details on the "Declarations" section.

Author's response: A "Declarations" heading is added after the abbreviations and the sub-section "Consent for publication" has been added here. Also, the sub-section "Acknowledgements" has been moved to here. See p. 33-35
Other Changes:

p. 3-4: We have removed a few words from the Abstract since it exceeded the limit for number of words.

p. 3 and 7: Updated figure of the prevalence of spousal violence in India

p. 5: A new reference has been added. (“Also, a recent study from Bangladesh showed that women who sought help from legal institutions experienced less violence from their husband [9].”)

p. 9: A new reference has been added. (“For example, participants in a study from Kenya talked about economic dependence on their husband as a major obstacle to seeking help for spousal violence [28].”)

p. 10: A new reference has been added. “presence of children [30]”.

p. 11: The results from Rowan et al’s study has been developed. We now also found another recent study from India on the same database which we have summarized (Hayes and Franklin 2016).

p. 26: We have added that our result that attitudes towards violence contradicts Hayes and Franklin’s results.

p. 27-28: Updated information about prevalence of child marriage in India, and new references.

p. 33: “NFHS” is added to Abbreviations

p. 35-40: The reference list has been updated

p. 45: We have added in the text to Figure 1 that the model is redrawn from Heise.