Reviewer's report

Title: Gender-based Violence Screening Methods Preferred by Women Visiting a Public Hospital in Pune, India.

Version: 0 Date: 13 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Khurshed Alam

Reviewer's report:

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a major global public health issue which is a risk factor for adverse health outcomes. Early identification of GBV is crucial for improved health outcomes among the victims. Interactions with health care providers may give a unique opportunity for routine GBV screening, if a safe, confidential environment can be established.

The authors followed a face to face interview method in between November 2014 and February 2015. It was done with a cross-section where women were interviewed about their opinions concerning GBV screening in a tertiary health care setting. Trained counsellors interviewed 300 women at different out-patient and in-patient departments using a semi-structured questionnaire. Twenty-three percent of these women reported experiencing GBV in their life since marriage. More than half (53%) women reported face-to-face interview as the most preferred method for screening. There were no major differences in these preferences by GBV history status.

The study has serious methodological limitations which are as follows:

1. Only women willing to report were interviewed, so a sample bias is very clear.
2. As knowledge goes the hospital is mainly used by low income group, among whom GBV is usually high, for which finding is not matching with national or regional average.
3. Many husbands in Pune used to take alcohol, who also commonly go for GBV but that is not reflected in the findings. That could be another method of detecting the GBV.
4. All the patients are not from the city, some may be from the rural areas as well. So, they may have some kind of reservation in disclosing GBV.
5. The detection method, therefore, not a rigorous one and therefore, methodologically not sound. No new or innovative approach could be developed by the authors. In that sense the paper does not add any value to our knowledge.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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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