Reviewer’s report

Title: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF DEVELOPING BELIEFS ABOUT HEALTH, ILLNESS AND HEALTHCARE IN MIGRANT AFRICAN WOMEN WITH GESTATIONAL DIABETES LIVING IN SWEDEN

Version: 0 Date: 07 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Maree Johnson

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting study of Migrant African Women Living in Sweden with Gestational Diabetes.

Title could be better described as a qualitative study of beliefs about... Sweden.

What is know section- needs substantial reworking and editing for correct meaning to be conveyed.

What paper adds- needs to be reduced to major points, too inclusive.

Abstract:

line 7: child, and are particularly relevant to migrant women and women of African origin.

line 9-10 .. with the new society and health system confronts...

page 6 line 23.. may be [very shocking] needs a more objective word.. ie., distressing to the woman??

page 6 line 53.. Ex-Yugoslavia ? is this an acceptable term could you rephrase..

page 8 line 2 ......in the 12th or 28th gestational week (order) (in the case of a family history? of diabetes mellitus

page 8 line 31... lay theory model??of illness causation.. (not sure of the meaning may require some further elaboration).

line 41.. help-seeking behaviours (healthcare seeking?)

page 8 line 58 Individual beliefs are learned through socialisation with others (x, x, x,) and influence attitudes to health-related behaviours

page 9 line 21.. migrants within an acculturation process.. new sentence.. Trying to adapt to... new country, may result in stress that may influence..
line 41.. ? meaning of authoritarian male culture?? Can you contextualise this further.

page 10 line 27... Did you mean convenience?? rather than consecutive? otherwise define consecutive please.

Results

page 12, line 48: .. ages ranged from 23 to 40 years (mean 31 years, SD XX).

line 51 All participants were refugees.. ties. The median time

line 58.. parous (n=8) and had been treated

page 13 line 1.. with about half with limited educational experiences (<6..

The use of footnotes for time of interview may not be the best way to present this. Perhaps consider time of interview beside participant (R33, Interview 1). Note the numbering in the text to explain this or use plain English in the quotes (R33, Interview During Pregnancy).

Page 14 introduces the 'supernatural influence' ?? whether this is the best term to use.. spiritual influence...? religious beliefs influence

Discussion

page 22 - U-shaped relapse (please define)

page 24 line 1 .. 'calming perhaps supportive is a better term.

page 25 line 21.. described health from a pathological perspective (? not pathogenetic?)

page 25 2nd paragraph, very difficult to read and understand suggest limiting the ideas being conveyed and rewrite this section.

page 26.. line 19.. Complete coping strategies ?? (not sure of the meaning of this perhaps the incorrect word is being used).

page 26 is one long paragraph insert breaks and reduce where possible.

The discussion is generally too long and at times unfocused. The authors should select 4-5 major point and present them rather than try and cover all issues identified.

Study limitations and strengths

This section is too long and limit to key issues. page 29 lines 1-12 delete.
Conclusions

First sentence rewrite, ... changed to a limited extent prospectively does not seem to convey the importance of the work... did you mean .. changed to a limited extent through the period of acculturation?? .. irrelevant concerns?? worries ..

page 29 line 29. reciprocal relationship?

line 41 to 46 presents as being very punitive.. and needs to be specific in its statements.. ie., competent staff... did you mean staff with skills and education specific to patient education ??? or similar... use of the term illness trajectory seems a little out of place when talking about pregnant women and gestational diabetes.. the trajectory of GDM and subsequent health issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper, which describes a very unique population of interest to the readers of BMC Women's Health.

There are English expression issues throughout the manuscript that require attention.

An additional reference that may be of interest to you.


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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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