Reviewer’s report

Title: "The sun keeps rising but darkness surrounds us": a qualitative exploration of the lived experiences of women with obstetric fistula in Ethiopia

Version: 3 Date: 19 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Solina Richter

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors

I have enjoyed reading your paper. Obstetric fistula is one of the obstetrical morbidities that does draw enough attention although a highly preventable condition. I am taking the liberty of making some recommendations to improve the quality of your manuscript.

First I need more information on the methodology and methods used. You will see I have made a few remarks in the text. I need information on the inclusion and exclusion criteria used to select participants. I need more information on the language in which the study was conducted. I assume it was not English? if true, please add information on the translation method you used to ensure the quality of the translation. I need more information on the data analysis; what type of analysis did you used. I do not agree with the study design. A phenomenological study is usually very philosophical and have a very specific way of analysing the data depending on who's philosophers work you are using. This reads much more like a generic qualitative descriptive study. You background literature reads like a summary of previous studies rather than a well developed synthesis that highly the knowledge available and the gaps that exists in current literature on obstetrical fistulas. Make sure that you include a research question or clearly developed purpose statement.

You will have to rethink how you are portraying the themes and sub-themes. Some of the subthemes is not a good fit with the main theme. Also I suggest that you collapse of of your subthemes. the discussion will benefit if you add a section on what this study contribute to new knowledge development. I additionally suggest that you add information on the implications for education, practice, policy and further research. I suggest that you have your work language edited.
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.

Unable to assess

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

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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