Reviewer’s report

Title: Abortion in Nepal: Perspectives of a cross-section of sexual and reproductive health and rights professionals

Version: 1 Date: 30 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer’s report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: The study participants are mostly from INGOs and NGOS while there is only one from the public sector which provides 47% of services compared to 43% by the NGO sector. Also there is just one participant from outside Kathmandu. This I find to be a weakness.

The data has been collected in 2014, relevance to current status unknown

The methods used for the collection of data and analysis are appropriate

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The data had been collected in 2014 and as such relates to the state of affairs before that as people were talking about their impressions from the exposure to services.

If the authors can show that no substantial change has occurred between 2014 and 2018 I suppose it is acceptable, but the editor will have to decide.

Sampling

According to the authors "Of the estimated 137,000 legal abortions performed in Nepal, the public sector provided 37% of procedures, 34% were provided at NGO facilities and 29% were obtained at private-sector clinics" and it is also stated that in Nepal 1 in 5 people are Urban which means nearly 80% are rural.

The sample of providers interviewed contains just one provider outside Kathmandu the capital and only one provider from the public sector facilities the main provider and that too in Kathmandu. I feel that public sector providers in areas outside Kathmandu are not represented at all. Problems of service provision as well as the social and cultural problems associated with procuring an abortion are likely to be different.
The way the data has been collected from this very limited sample is good. Inclusion of an independent researcher is excellent.

Maybe they can discuss the relevance of data collected 4 years ago as well as the relevance of the sample of interviewees in relation to the rural population to enhance the paper. May I suggest that the background contains a little more about health service provision specifically reproductive health services in Nepal and also look at contraceptive prevalence, abortion etc urban and rural.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Please see comments above.

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:
1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

This reviewer has been recruited by a partner organization, Research Square. Reviewers with declared or apparent competing interests are not utilized for these reviews. This reviewer has agreed to publication of their comments online under a Creative Commons Attribution License attributed to Research Square and was paid a small honorarium for completing the review within a specified timeframe. Honoraria for reviews such as this are paid regardless of the reviewer recommendation.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal