Reviewer's report

Title: Medical students are afraid to include abortion in their future practices: In-depth interviews in Maharastra, India.

Version: 3 Date: 14 July 2015

Reviewer: Nai-peng Tey

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

The background will be rearranged and rewritten according to some sequence. Do not include statements that are not related in the same paragraph. E.g. first paragraph in the background section - son preference in the Indian society ...Line 57) is rather detached from the preceding sentences.

You may want to begin the next paragraph with a discussion on low contraceptive use, and then son preference to put into context the prevalence of sex selective abortion.

The method section is too brief. I suggest you combine this with data collection and analysis.

The results section should focus on presenting the findings from the interviews and not mix with discussion. I suggest moving a number of sentences from the results section to discussion section.

Ambiguous sentences

Examples Line 200 - "The respondents' experiences from the clinical setting confirmed their perception that abortion is illegal

Line 212: A 21 year-old girl engineering-student came here (where?) alone with three weeks amenorrhea (Moreover three weeks amenorrhoea - it is probably too early to determine if one is pregnant or not)

Line 225-226 Observing physicians’ dependability supported this lack of clinical confidence and fear about taking their own decisions

Contradictory statements

Examples - Line 176-179 The legal conditions for providing medical termination of pregnancy were often correctly cited, but the students also included prerequisites perceived necessary to protect the provider such as obtaining consent from the woman’s husband or parents, even when she was not a minor (second part implies wrong interpretation of the law"

Irrelevant sentences

Line 251-257 &277-279, 287-289 - not quite relevant to the topic under study.
Pay attention to choice of words - e.g. Line 156 - the findings is supported by three sub themes - I suggest you it to "the findings are discussed under three sub-themes.

Not all the respondents were cited. Some respondents were not identified - e.g. in line 179, 208, 222, 239, 285. It will be better to identify them such as informant number xx,

Findings from this study are limited and cannot be generalized. It is better to treat this as a case study in Maharastra

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'