Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 25 July 2015

Reviewer: RAJIB ACHARYA

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1. The background section should be consolidated by using newer data on abortion and maternal mortality in India. Authors are using quite old statistics, however new information is available from RGI and other sources. Also since the authors are taking up issues like task shifting, they need to provide context and recent developments should be discussed. Needs major overhaul. The issue of safe abortion is muddled with the confusion with sex selective abortion in India and that needs to be stated in this section for readers to understand some of the findings and discussion later on.

2. Please indicate local ethical approval under "Ethical consideration"

3. Under "Abortion is illegal in society" - both the quotes cites are not related to the sub-theme, they don't support the argument made by the authors. Need supporting quotes.

4. Under "social distance" - what is the argument in the quote? students don't want to provide any services in rural areas or they don't want to provide 'abortion services' in the rural areas - need to change this quote or clarify

5. Under "future access to safe abortion" - again the quotes do not support authors' arguments. Nurses are already providing contraceptive services so that's nothing new or nothing new to add to services. Need to modify or cite new quotes.

Minor compulsory revision

1. Under "study participants" authors say that 4 government and 2 private medical colleges were sampled from urban and rural areas. What did the authors mean by medical college in rural areas? How is rural defined in such case? As far as my knowledge goes all medical colleges are in urban areas/towns. Need to explain / rewrite.

2. Under "study participants" please delete "A few had been sexually active" - I think this information is redundant to this paper unless authors hypothesise that being sexually active would have modified their views.

3. Is Pune a coastal city?
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests