Reviewer’s report

Title: When the law makes doors slightly open: ethical dilemmas among abortion service providers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Anna Glasier

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written paper about an interesting and important topic. It is often imagined that simply changing abortion laws to allow liberal access to abortion will solve the problem of maternal mortality and morbidity related to abortion. It is, sadly, not true and this paper does a good job of illustrating the problem that arises with reluctant providers and laws which have restrictions.

I have only a few rather minor comments.

1. The paper is a little bit long, it could be shortened somewhat by careful editing particularly of all the background information at the beginning.

2. Line 143 the mortality rate of 968 in the 1990s - this requires a denominator for readers who are not experts in the field.

3. I find figure 1 unnecessary, why not simply state the indications for which abortion is legal. Figures interrupt the flow of a paper and in this case is not helpful.

4. Line 182 in which the authors state that Addis has the highest registered abortion rate. How are abortions registered and is registration accurate?

5. I do not understand the meaning of the final sentence of the paper (line 572).

6. Finally in the list of things to do which might help providers with their difficulties I would suggest that clinical support or mentorship would be helpful as these providers are clearly isolated.

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.

Yes
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

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