Reviewer’s report

Title: Circumstances Leading to Intimate Partner Violence Against Women Married as Children: A Qualitative Study in Urban Slums of Lahore, Pakistan

Version: 3
Date: 4 June 2015

Reviewer: Lauren Ferreira Cardoso

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Overall, the study’s aims – to describe the types of IPV and contributing factors for experiencing IPV among women married as children are important for the field. As well, research on the IPV experiences of women living in urban slums of Pakistan would be a critical addition to the literature.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The paper is still in need of a professional edit.
2. In the discussion section, the authors state that the study showed IPV is common among women married as children. From the methods, it seems that study participants were chosen specifically b/c they were married as children and had experiences with IPV. Therefore, the authors can’t claim that the study showed IPV is common. It can, however, conclude that the violence experienced by women in this study who were married as children share some common characteristics. The authors should refrain throughout the discussion and conclusion to suggest that the study shows IPV is prevalent. This is a qualitative study with a purposive sample – so its contribution to the literature is a description of IPV (contributing factors, attitudes towards, etc.) not a quantification of.
3. Although the authors revised the text so as to remove the word “generalizations,” these claims are still being made. For example, in the discussion section, “a majority of women married as children belonged to a low socio-economic class and had no formal schooling.” These participants were recruited from a poor community, so it cannot add to the literature that says women married as children belong to urban slums…

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. In the methods section, please clarify if the pre-post natal experiences were necessary for this study or the larger one. Did all of the participants also have children? Is this relevant in anyway to the findings?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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.