Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of Illness Disclosure among Indian Slum-Dwellers: A Qualitative Study

Version: 0 Date: 25 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Roger Ayimbillah Atinga

Reviewer's report:

Methodology

Given that this study was designed qualitatively, the use of a structured questionnaire to collect data, highlight the lack of direction to any particular paradigm.

The methodology lack structure and that has affected sequencing of ideas. May be sub-titles will help authors present ideas chronologically.

Authors should describe how in-depth interviews and semi-structured interviews were framed. This should be presented as part of the methodology to enable the reader know well ahead of the findings

Analysis should begin with how the data was processed and refined. Next present the approach to thematic analysis.

Results

The theme "coping with insecurities of the slum" and its content does not match up. The theme need to be modified accordingly.

The theme "Therapeutic value of disclosure" and its content also have partial or no similarities.

Portions of the content describing the themes overlap. Please take steps to address that. Ideas should not be repeated. It makes the work unnecessarily bulky. This sub-theme "women developed the coping strategy of reassuring themselves by continuously expressing their distress to others" fits better in the theme discussion who do the dweller disclose illness.
Portions of the content are redundant; not linked appropriately to the themes

"Fear of future social sanctions" should come after "social norms driving illness disclosure" to improve upon the flow.

I don't see how this theme "Harshness of slum environment" relate to the subject matter under investigation.

Discussion

Discussion should be modified to suit revisions to the results.

Conclusion

The conclusion should be present ideas about implication of the study's findings to policy and practice.

**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.

Unable to assess

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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