Reviewer’s report

Title: Does the Stockholm Syndrome Affect Female Sex Workers? The Case for a "Sonagachi Syndrome"

Version: 0 Date: 24 Aug 2017

Reviewer: L.M. (Leontien) van der Knaap

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Authors,

I read your submission "Does The Stockholm Syndrome Affect Female Sex Workers" with much interest and I think it may be a valuable contribution to the literature. However, I do think the manuscript may (and should) be improved in order to provide the reader important information about the study. In the current version, I would suggest the editors of BMC International Health & Human Rights invite you to revise the manuscript.

First of all, the manuscript does not contain a clear or explicit problem statement and research question(s). I am not sure whether there are other considerations like a limit to the word count that prevented you from including both problem statement and research question(s) but I think it is important to elaborate on this. The current background section to the manuscript leaves me wondering what may be gained by an understanding of victims' responses as part of the Stockholm Syndrome given the fact that this syndrome has not been approved as a true medical syndrome by the medical or psychiatric community.

Second, I would strongly suggest to include a methods section. The current version of the paper does not include any information about the number of women you interviewed; it does not provide information about the initial goals of the interviews and the questions that were put to the respondents; there is no information on the way you coded the interviews in regard to the retrospective study you conducted; and there is no way for the reader to get an idea of the possibility that only a limited number of interviews from the initial study were used (cherry picking). In no way do I want to suggest your methods were below standard but the current version of the article lacks information.

Finally, the Conclusions section states that "the state of being of female sex workers in long-term sexual and emotional trauma is perhaps currently best captured by Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or Disorders of Extreme Stress Not Otherwise Specified". How does this relate to the focus of the previous sections? Why is this new perspective introduced in the conclusions section? And if sex workers' trauma is best captured by Complex PTSD, what does the Stockholm Syndrome add to our understanding of their experiences? Moreover, why do we need a differentiation of the Stockholm Syndrome in female sex workers? I do not think that this recommendation follows from the previous sections in the paper.

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.

No

**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

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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