**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** A Harmful Traditional Practice Exposing Young Girls to Experience Virgin Pregnancy (Shilshalo): A Qualitative Study in Argoba Community, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia

**Version: 0 Date: 16 Apr 2018**

**Reviewer:** Kahsu Gebrekirstos

**Reviewer's report:**

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

**Comments**

**Title:**

I think making is not appropriate term It shows confirmation. Better to change it with other words like "exposing"

**Abstract:**

Avoid abbreviations from Abstract

Include objective of the study at the end this paragraph

**Plain English summary**

Why this section is not important to present it separately? May be you can summarize and include it under background. because you have to follow the author guideline of this journal.

**Background:**

Page 5, Line number 18-26: this part should come to the end of this section.

Page 5, Line number 52: Understanding is not action word. change it
Page 5, Line number 54: No Need to include specific objectives. General objective is enough.

Methods
The methods section need major revision.
You need to introduce the study area at the beginning of methodology.
Follow the submission guideline of the journal.
How do you select the study participants? especially the boys and girls
What was your inclusion criteria
The title is very interesting but the methods section needs revision.
Line number 20: This design need more clarification, what type of case study, explain the case.
Data gathering Instruments: This section need major revision, you need to write about data collection tool, then data collection.
Include: Who collect the data?
Page 6, Line number 28: What type of interview? in depth interview is used in qualitative study designs
Page 6, Line number 30: Data collection tool or method? revise it, Mention the type of tool used for interview
Page 6, Line number 38-40: Include source of this tool
Include the number of FDGs in addition to the number of participants,
Clearly indicate who were the data collectors? mainly for the females.
Trustworthiness of the study: Better to make it, data quality control

Results:
I have a couple of questions related to this practice.
1. Have you tried to assess the practice of open sexual intercourse as consequence of this practice
2. What if the teenagers fall in real love? if ever happened
3. Include the outcome of virgin pregnancy

Page 9, line 38: You did not mention nurses as data sources but included here? why?

Page 12, line 15, 16 (subtopic Reasons to practice): This should be before the consequences of the practice

Discussion

Page 15, line 33: studied???

Page 16, line 17-26: Why do you compare early marriage and FGM with Shilshalo?

Conclusion:

The first two lines of the conclusion are not related to your findings. The conclusion should be based on your findings. Focus on answering your objectives.

Ethics approval

Take the highlighted part (first two lines) to the end of this section.

Change "carefully" to confidentiality

Bibliography:

Make it References

Avoid the bold font (make the text similar)

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.

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

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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