Reviewer’s report

Title: Leishmaniasis patients' pilgrimage to access health care in rural Bolivia: a qualitative study using human rights to health approach

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Matthew Weait

Reviewer’s report:

I thought that this was useful piece of work addressing a disease, and experience of disease, which has relatively little attention.

The authors have done a number of things well. The methodology is sound, the example quotations from the fieldwork are strong, illustrative, and contextualised. The strengths and limitations of the research itself are clearly set out.

As for what needs further work:

a) The English. I have provided commentary and suggestions for the authors via an annotated version of the pdf. I would recommend strongly adopting these, or a version of them.

b) More importantly, and more significantly, there is an extensive literature on the human right to health; and although the authors identify four aspects of the right necessary for its full enjoyment, they need to devote more attention to precisely WHY a human rights approach is critical, WHY it is critical for (neglected) tropical diseases, and precisely WHY / HOW it will support those suffering from leishmaniasis. As the article stands it reads rather like a study of the experience of the disease, with human rights "tacked on". The authors need to provide some deeper reflection on the value of a human rights approach, and what it would mean for these people, in this context, at this time. I would specifically recommend and expect the authors to read, think about, and refer to the following at the very least (some of which I realise was published after this piece was written)


https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/Human_rights_approach_to_NTD_Eng_ok.pdf


It would also be sensible and advisable to contextualise generally with some of the foundational HR and health literature, which is easily accessible.

**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.

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.

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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