Reviewer’s report

Title: Expanding the Role of Paralegals: Supporting Realization of the Right to Health for Vulnerable Communities

Version: 0  Date: 17 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Therese Murphy

Reviewer's report:

This piece addresses an important but under-researched issue and I recommend publication subject to the following revisions:

The most important revision is to revisit the piece to ensure that it is both clear and consistent with respect to what it means by 'health-related rights'. Two specific places where work is needed are: (i) p 3 line 55 and p 4 line 1, where the consistency of the framing needs to be reviewed (is it being argued that eg access to justice is a health-related right?); and (ii) p 6 lines 32-59 (is the focus on health-related rights or eg direct attention to health? The relationship between these needs to be explained more clearly). But more generally a clearer account of what is meant by health-related rights would assist the reader and should allow the authors to specify in more detail how each of their four key points relates to 'health related rights'.

Second and relatedly, in your analysis please reflect on why respondents framed their interventions using the right to health (see pp 9-10). Eg, is there something specific in the Indonesian context that produced this?

Third, re data on p 8, reflect on whether the number of paralegals who had moved away/were not contactable ought to be factored into your analysis.

Fourth, p x line 24 where you describe criteria used to recruit paralegals: used by whom? Please specify

Fifth, p 5, line 27, reflect on flow of points. Text seems to switch from overcrowding to lengthy detention.

Sixth, pp 14-15, should the identifying details be removed (eg, name of client; quote with name of service provider)?

Finally, in the abstract: (i) add a short descriptor for LBHM (eg an NGO focused on detention/criminal justice); (ii) either here or in the methodology section, specify whether the paralegals who were interviewed were a subset of those who completed the survey; and (iii) under 'Results', consider whether the impact of information is broader than clients are more aware of their medical status. This final point also goes to the general concern I raised above: namely, what precisely falls within 'health-related rights'.
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.

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

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Acceptable

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