Reviewer’s report

Title: Snap shots of gender and health systems: What does photography reveal about close to community providers?

Version: 1 Date: 1 April 2015

Reviewer: Ann Pederson

Reviewer’s report:

This commentary is a very interesting contribution to human resources for health services research. Although somewhat awkwardly written – which I trust will be sorted with a solid edit of the text – the paper offers valuable insight into the important issue of the roles women and men fulfill as close-to-community health care providers. In this social media age, this article adds a fresh ‘take’ on who does health care work, what that work consists of, and how gender is implicated in it.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please add sufficient detail about the photography competition, such as when it occurred, that a reader need not look elsewhere on the Internet for that information. This likely means inserting the timing of the competition and any relevant URLs that still contain information about the competition process, etc...

2. Please explain to the reader why this project was undertaken as a competition. Given that this competitive nature would likely influence many of the ethical and practical aspect of the project subsequently raised for consideration, it is surprising to have this aspect of the process ignored in the discussion. Is there an assumption that because there was not a monetary award associated with the competition that the competitive nature of the event had no implications for who submitted their work, what photos were submitted, etc.? The very process of “judging” was somewhat opaque, although I have no doubt it was undertaken with the best of intentions. Why not let the reader ‘see’ this for themselves?

Minor Essential Revisions

3. Please read this draft carefully and correct spelling, hyphenation (e.g.,
close-to-community), tense, and missing words. These errors make the article more difficult to read than it should be.

Discretionary Revisions

4. Please consider whether it is possible to incorporate an example of any of the images in this article to make it easier for the reader to understand the discussion of the imagery.

5. Also please consider moving the last paragraph on p. 3, which returns to an earlier discussion about 17 photos documenting women’s roles to the section above where it seems to fit better. While this may shorten the section on “women’s roles reinvented?”, I think this revision may help with following the discussion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.