Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and Preliminary Validation of a Post-Fistula Repair Reintegration Instrument among Ugandan Women

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Sunil Mehra

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Authors,

Research topic of this manuscript is a public health concern. The manuscript is well written. However, the following points should be addressed before resubmitting:

Title

* The title should use tools instead of instrument, because you are validating the measurement tool

Suggested title- "Development and Preliminary Validation of a Post-Fistula Repair Reintegration Measurement Tool among Ugandan Women"

Abstract

* Page 2, lines 41-42: Why importance only on Africa and Asia "……mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia"? Why focus is not on under-developed and developing countries

* Page 2, line 50: change "thematic analysis" to "thematic content analysis"

* You should limit the key words (around 5). You may delete some key words like- survey, measure, etc.

Background

* More evidenced based literature around reintegration following obstetric fistula surgery need to be reviewed

* Is there any other measurement tool for evaluating women's post-surgical reintegration success?
Methodology

* Why you do the survey in "one apex hospital" in the country; because there is possibility of less complication in post obstetric fistula surgery due to better facilities in the apex hospital. Sample should be taken randomly from various hospitals

* Sample size is very less (particularly for quantitative analysis). Please give some explanation on methods section

* Page 7, Line 171-175: Along with other questions, history of still birth or fetal demise should have been asked. Since still birth is very common among such patients of obstructed labor with fistula ranging from 50-89% in the countries under consideration. Also the history of foot drop should have been asked. These histories should be asked since both of them have an impact on mental health of the women after delivery. They might affect mobility as well. Similarly history of repeat pregnancy after fistula operation is important in 6-24 months? I think it might exaggerate the situation.

* Line 238: Local research coordinators are from the same Hospital or you hired local researcher for this purpose

* There should be focus on history of post-operative complication after surgery which might affect the overall change in mood, mobility or mental health

Results

* Page 18: A summary paragraph at the end of qualitative analysis will help the reader to understand the list of issues in a bird-eye-at view

* Page 18, line 451-452: you need to put comma (,) after factor loading and before thus (factor loadings , thus were excluded from all further analysis of the scale”).

* The paragraph in page 19 is too big, is it possible to do two paragraphs

Discussion

* It is important to discuss how many women generally seek surgery for obstetric fistula and what are the guidelines/ pathways of care for post-surgery of obstetric fistula at the hospital/ facility level

* Page 21, line 523-525: Suggest to discuss the coping strategies in light of the qualitative data and socio-demographic profile of the women collected from the field along with evidence based literature
References

Should be arranged according to the journal requirement

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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