Reviewer’s report

Title: Medical Abortion in Nepal: A qualitative study on women’s experiences at safe abortion services and pharmacies

Version: 0 Date: 13 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Moreno Standen

Reviewer's report:

First, I would like to recognize the importance and contribution of your work to current debates on public health and sexual reproductive health and rights issues, as it contributes to understand the existing barriers to accessing safe abortion services, even where it is legal. Also you have made a strong case arguing in favor of the relevance and necessity of a harm reduction approach that considers pharmacists and other "mid-level" professionals as providers of safe abortion services in Nepal. In my opinion, this is an important argument that must be discussed widely.

Second, as I informed to the Journal's Editor, is my belief that your paper meets all the criteria necessary to be published: it stands for a relevant subject which certainly will be of interest to an international audience; it is finely written and well structured; concepts are appropriately defined; the methodology stands on established processes and procedures drawn from scientific research techniques and it is successful in its aim -focusing on assets and solutions; it accomplish ethical criteria; and, the conclusions are reasonable and meaningful.

Finally, I would like to offer some commentaries. Please note that they do not imply a revision of your current piece of work -as I already stated, it is suitable for publication- but to consider for further analysis.

1. Despite the importance given to FCHVs as resources to achieve information related to SRHR according to your interviewees, it doesn't seem that they have the necessary tools to promote women's access to sexual and reproductive health care, specially regarding contraception and safe abortion management (as it follows from your results). An interesting theme of inquiry would be to assess their knowledge and skills on this particular matter, as they seem a resource to bridge the gap between health care providers and women.

2. As you acknowledge, high quality on abortion procedure and postabortion counselling is assured on your CC sample because of the nature of the provider (an institution with a clear sexual and reproductive rights framework). Therefore, it would be interesting to assess the quality and standard of public health providers. In many countries of Latin America, for instance, health providers are the main obstacles to women's access to safe abortions, even when laws allowed abortions in very restricted conditions, as in Brazil and Chile.
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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
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Acceptable

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