Author’s response to reviews

Title: “I feel myself incomplete, and I am inferior to people”: Experiences of Sudanese Women Living with Obstetric Fistula in Khartoum, Sudan

Authors:
Salma Ahmed (s.e.ahmed@medisin.uio.no; salmaeljailani@yahoo.com)
Viva Thorsen (v.c.thorsen@medisin.uio.no)

Version: 2 Date: 04 Dec 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Response to Reviewer reports:

Please submit the appendix with the COREQ table.

The COREQ reporting guidelines for qualitative research were followed and included in the references list during the first round of revision. The table was submitted as well as an appendix. It is attached again for easy reference.

In the "Data management and analysis" section, please clarify how the Goffman and Lazarus models were used during analysis (e.g. were results analyzed deductively-only? Did any of your findings emerge inductively / not addressed in either model)? If the results are reported according to these models, please state that clearly, e.g. end of the first paragraph of the Findings section.

The authors thank the reviewer for the comment. This study drew upon the concepts of stigma and the transactional model of stress and coping by Lazarus and Folkman, they were used to inform the data analysis and to explain findings. The data were reviewed/analyzed with certain preconceived categories derived from models while some of the subthemes emerged inductively from the text. The models helped determine the categorizing of emergent codes and sub-themes into the main themes i.e. the analysis was both deductive and inductive in nature.

The "Data management and analysis" section was edited to include the above mentioned clarification. Please see page 8, lines 3 - 12.

Please reposition “Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate” section under the heading Declaration.

The section about “Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate” repositioned under the heading Declaration as advised, please see page 19 lines 1 - 18.