Reviewer’s report

Title: Community attitudes and gendered influences on decision making around contraceptive implant use in rural Papua New Guinea

Version: 0 Date: 26 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Caroline Homer

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. It is an interesting and important area. I enjoyed reading it and it will be an important additional to the literature.

The study aimed to explore community attitudes towards the contraceptive implant and the pathways to decision making around implant use in a rural community on Karkar Island, PNG. Data were collected using 10 focus-group (FGD) and 23 in-depth interviews (IDI).

The study has been undertaken with care and is appropriate for the method and the setting.

A few points of clarification are needed:

Why was this site selected? Is it similar or different to other parts of PNG?

While there is a deeply engrained perception that family planning is 'women's business', men still seemed to have the final decision on contraceptive use. This is highlighted in the Discussion and the Abstract. This seems an intractable problem and challenge and I am not sure if the engagement strategies planned will really make a difference. I was surprised not to see much about access to education - more than primary school, as there seems to be global evidence that educating girls and boys may make a difference as a broader strategy. Perhaps the authors could reflect upon the issue of education as an approach?

Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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