Reviewer’s report

Title: Experiences of pregnancy in adolescence of Internally Displaced Women in Bogotá: an ethnographic approach.

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Reviewer: Sara Casey

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Experiences of pregnancy in adolescence of Internally Displaced Women in Bogotá: an ethnographic approach by Cadena-Camargo et al

This is an important topic to discuss. I am a little concerned about the fact that women are speaking about an event that occurred 4-20 years previously. The information presented is interesting, but I think the writing could be tightened up a bit. I am not an expert in ethnographic research, so some of my comments may be inappropriate for this type of research. In addition, some of my comments are related to terminology. Most of my comments are suggestions rather than mandatory.

Introduction

Line 85: do you have the actual figure for pregnancy incidence among adolescents in Colombia (rather than saying one in five)?

Line 85: I don't think PA is a common acronym. I would recommend writing out 'pregnancy in adolescence'

Line 88: 'possible ways of pregnancy' sounds awkward to me. If this is a common term that I just do not know, please ignore this comment. I am assuming this refers to the circumstances in which these women became pregnant in adolescence. I wonder if 'pathways to pregnancy' might be better.

Background

Line 135: replace 'resumed' with 'summarized'

Line 169: I don't think IDW is a common acronym. 'IDP women' would be better.

Line 172-173: I don't quite understand the second half of this sentence: It is important to connect to the perspectives of these displaced women and understand how they give meaning to PA to deal with problems of "reach".

Methods

Were there any other criteria for recruiting women into the study beyond the fact that they had a pregnancy during adolescence?
Line 200: Where all of the respondents IDPs when they were pregnant? Or were the criteria that the women are currently internally displaced but they may or may not have been IDPs as adolescents?

Line 203: as you describe your sample, could you perhaps indicate partnered status at the time of the pregnancy (ie were they married or in a relationship at the time)?

Line 209: How often were these 8 workshops scheduled: weekly? Monthly? Other frequency? It would be helpful to have an idea of the duration of the data collection time period.

Lines 223-228: Was the first author the only one who coded the transcripts or did more than one person code transcripts in Nvivo?

Results

Line 262: 'women were asked at times to have sexual relationships…’ Asked or forced or maybe pressured? Asked here suggests the women could refuse - could they?

Lines 267-281: This quote could perhaps be shortened a bit - maybe stopping at line 278?

Line 291: this says the following quote is illustrative of the believe that PA relates to suffering in childhood. The quote certainly illustrates a difficult family life and shows why she left home, but doesn't necessarily show the link to PA. Perhaps you could make this more explicit?

Line 319: this linking of the difficult home circumstances with the girls escaping seems to be a major theme of this section - as in my previous comment. Perhaps somewhere in here, you can say that this leaving home made the girls perhaps more vulnerable to PA?

Line 353: You comment that some women said they did not pay attention to family planning - did they say why? Is this due to a lack of knowledge about FP? Lack of access? They didn't think it was important?

Line 356: the last 'it' in this sentence - does this refer to the pregnancy? They didn't use FP because they wanted to be pregnant? If yes, the quotes in lines 357-361 do not suggest to me that the women wanted to get pregnant.

Line 387: does (workshop) mean these 3 quotes were from the workshops while all others were from the in depth interviews?

Line 399: to be consistent with other quotes, 'Lourdes' should follow the quote in parentheses.

Line 402 and 404: I would suggest using a different word from 'commodities' here - commodities to me indicates supplies for a program, not things an individual would have or give.

Line 405: ‘….from their mothers [perhaps replace with themselves], or even the history [perhaps replace with experience] of displacement'  

Is there anything about why they think they failed as moms when they said they wanted to be different from their own mothers?
Discussion

Line 430: 'the analysis shows that this rural environment where the participants grew up, was not only violent because of the armed conflict, but is also violent in the sense of poverty and lack of opportunities lived in these rural areas'. I'm not exactly sure these are all separate issues. The violence in the home may also be linked to the conflict and general violence in the community (ie when violence becomes the norm). Perhaps soften this statement so they don't seem like unique issues rather than interconnected ones.

Line 435: 'Despite violence suffered, the reduction of daily stressors in the life of adolescents affected by war could promote resilience and minimize to a certain extent the psychological symptoms caused by the stress accumulated by war'. Maybe this reduction of daily stressors could also help the girls to handle stress?

Line 437-440: I'm sorry but this sentence is not clear: 'In addition, Zanchi made it clear that girls in unfavourable contexts, who did not hold a study culture, or did not have a promising future or a comfortable level in their living situation, would have a future equal to the environment where they lived, with an understanding and belief that motherhood will not interfere in their life and will not cause them harm.' For example, I don't know what you mean by the girls 'did not hold a study culture'? Perhaps this sentence could be re-written to be more clear?

Line 448: You mention that some girls lived with a man who was an active actor in the armed conflict? Do you have a quote where they mention this? I may have missed it but this seems the first mention of who the partners of these girls were. It seems like discussion of who the partners were of these girls when they became pregnant might be important.

Line 463: You mention that participants said it was difficult to talk about sex with their mothers - this doesn't appear anywhere in the Results but is first mentioned here in the Discussion.

I think the writing could be tightened up a bit. Several times in the Discussion, I thought that a theme was mentioned for the first time, and had to look back into the Results only to find a small mention of it. Although I hate to say reduce the references, I think the Discussion could perhaps be strengthened by discussing your results a bit more. Or at least linking your results more directly to the other references you cite.

Conclusion

Line 507: 'Motherhood represents an ideal opportunity to achieve fulfilment'. This seems like a judgmental statement - what is the evidence for this? Perhaps soften it rather than make it a statement.

I think you should include a Limitations section - this is particularly important since you interviewed women 4-20 years after the pregnancy they are discussing. I think recall bias is important to note. Also, if the author who conducted the interviews was also the only person coding the data, that seems a limitation to me as well. Or at least should be mentioned somewhere in the paper.
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