

Peer Review

Review of: "Reproductive Health Problems Among Women in Selected Terai Districts of Nepal: A Critical Medico-Legal Assessment"

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Dear Authors,

I have reviewed your article, "Reproductive Health Problems Among Women in Selected Terai Districts of Nepal: A Critical Medico-Legal Assessment." Below are some observations and suggestions:

Strengths:

Comprehensive Scope: The article covers a wide range of reproductive health issues, including cervical cancer and pelvic organ prolapse, providing significant insight into public health challenges in Nepal's Terai region.

Mixed-Methods Approach: The combination of quantitative and qualitative methods enriches the study's depth and ensures a well-rounded understanding of the topic.

Policy Alignment: The discussion aligns the findings with national and international reproductive health policies, such as Nepal's RH strategy and the ICPD agenda.

Data Presentation: The use of tables and figures to summarize key findings enhances clarity and accessibility.

Suggestions for Improvement:

Clarity in Results:

The results section could better distinguish between major findings and ancillary details to emphasize key outcomes (e.g., the high prevalence of cervical cancer and uterine prolapse).

Ethnicity and Socio-Cultural Factors:

While the article discusses ethnic disparities, it would benefit from a deeper analysis of how cultural practices influence healthcare access and outcomes.

Limitations:

The study would be strengthened by a dedicated section discussing limitations, such as potential sampling biases or challenges in data collection due to socio-cultural taboos.

Policy Recommendations:

The discussion on policy implications could include more actionable suggestions, such as specific programs or interventions to address identified gaps.

Ethical Considerations:

While ethical approvals are mentioned, a more detailed discussion of ethical considerations in qualitative interviews would add depth.

References:

Some references appear incomplete or lack standard formatting. Ensure consistency across citations for credibility.

Example of Incompleteness:

Reference: "London: Cancer Research UK, Cervical Cancer Incidence Statistics (2013)."

Issue: Missing details such as the URL or DOI for easier verification.

Example of Lack of Standard Formatting:

Reference: "Shrivastava D. Manisha S, Bagde N, Visual Inspection of Cervix with Acetic Acid: An Alternative to Cytology and Colposcopy in Early Screening of Cervical Cancer in Low-Resource Setup. Journal of Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences University. 2017 Jan 1;12(1):32. (2017)."

Issue: Author names are not consistent with standard referencing formats (e.g., APA, MLA, or Vancouver). It could be more structured:

Shrivastava, D., Manisha, S., & Bagde, N. (2017). Visual Inspection of Cervix with Acetic Acid: An Alternative to Cytology and Colposcopy in Early Screening of Cervical Cancer in Low-Resource Setup. Journal of Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences University, 12(1), 32.

Gaps in Source Identification:

Reference: "World Health Organization, Cancer, World Heal. Organ. (2022)."

Issue: Missing report title or page numbers to identify the specific WHO document referenced.

Improper Citations:

Reference: "International Agency for Research on Cancer, Estimated Cancer Incidence, Mortality and Prevalence Worldwide in 2012., GLOBOCAN (2012)."

Issue: Missing standard citation format, such as author names (if applicable), detailed report title, and publication details.

Recommendations:

Use a consistent citation style throughout the article (e.g., APA, MLA, Vancouver, etc.).

Include URLs or DOIs for online sources for better traceability.

Standardize author names, titles, and publication details to align with the chosen referencing style.

Thank you for the wonderful work.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.