

Review of: "Women In Slum Risking Their Safety To Access And Usage Of Basic Water And Sanitation Facilities"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper addresses an important issue : gender-based violence and crimes related to open defecation (OD). It is both theoretical and indirectly empirical, since the papers analyzed concerned real-world aspects of the issue.

The title could be better "Safety Risks Related to OD Faced by Women Living in Slum : A Literature Review" or something similar.

In the abstract, acronyms (ex. PT) are given before their definitions. The contrary is recommended. In the introduction, some ideas are not supported by reference or not necessary (ex. the HIV/AIDS idea). A report is mentioned according to which "many of these women experienced urinary tract infections and required hospitalization as a result.". But there is no clear reference to any report in the text.

The 'literature review' (could better named "Background literature") is only one paragraph. That is too much text for a sole paragraph. It would be better break it into different paragraphs for easier reading.

In the methodology section, the authors do not provide information about the period of time concerned by the study. We know the number of paper analyzed but not the number of countries. The table 2 is redundant with Figure 1 and could have been deleted without any problem for understanding.

The results and discussion section is well organized and illustrated. In sub-section 5.5. the authors write "Women in the sample reported that their regular restrooms were closed or locked at night...". But we cannot understand to what sample they refer. If it is a citation from a paper analyzed, it would be better to make it clear and give credit to that author of the empirical study.

Conclusion and Suggestions are based on interesting and proactive. The authors suppose the problem is in or around OD and facilities. They write "toilet itself becomes a site of crime". Although this idea is supported, the authors could also consider that in India gender-based violence is a larger problem that is not only related to OD. Therefore, solutions may also come from change in male sexual behaviors.

