

Peer Review

Review of: "'There Are Challenging Cases for Us': A Qualitative Study of Cypriot Midwives' Experiences Investigating Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy"

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I want to appreciate the authors for their great effort in conducting the study. The study will add to knowledge, but there is a need to assess its quality. Below are my findings for their consideration.

Title – please modify. Difficult to understand. Not fluent. The title is not in tandem with the body of the manuscript. The work is about the experience of midwives in the provision of care for IPV. *'There Are Challenging Cases for Us': A Qualitative Study of Cypriot Midwives' Experiences Investigating Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy'*

Abstract

Modify the results. Apart from the four themes, the rest of the sentences failed to convey concrete information about the study, e.g., *They mentioned specific ways that would better support them in identifying and caring for victims.* Look at the grammar and its semantics, which applies also to the rest of the manuscript.

Background

There is room for improvement. Why begin with *'There are many clinical guidelines worldwide for investigating intimate partner violence (IPV) during pregnancy.'* Consider highlighting the bad omen associated with pregnant women being subjected to IPV, the challenges of it, and the need for a guideline in the study area.

Conclusion

Restructure. The conclusion is at variance with the information in the results.

Background

Rewrite, please. Many loose statements with no reference. It has yet to justify the study.

Recruitment and sample

Rewrite. STROBE's guidelines will be of help. A little information about the study area is important and about patient care. Do the nurses work under a doctor? Who makes the diagnosis of IPV? Who manages a case? These and others are necessary to properly situate the role of the nurses/midwives. What informed the sample size? It is small; consider 30. It is important that the clinical management of patients in the study area be properly reported vis-à-vis cases of IPV so that readers will be able to understand. Is there any IPV response team in the study area? What is the role of midwives in this care? In certain climes, a doctor who gives instructions on what to be done for a case of IPV makes the diagnosis of IPV; does it apply in the study area?

Why make this group an inclusion criterion = *'participated in the educational program -STOPIPV on intimate partner violence during pregnancy organized by the research team of the Cyprus University of Technology in 2021'* Any conflict of interest? What about bias?

Did the spread of participants cut across the different Cyprus population of midwives?

Analysis

Rewrite. What is the import of telling readers that A, B, and C guided researchers? Before one embarks on any venture, he/she must acquire the requisite knowledge. Were all the authors involved in data analysis? During the interview, was it recorded or not?

Demographic

Some of the information is not demographic in nature.

Results

The authors should present the study findings and avoid discussing them. Avoid any interpretation. The language is not okay; fluency is not okay. The **Results** are confusing. The first two sentences are confusing. Restructure, please. What do the authors mean by challenging cases? Be specific with the theme. Is it diagnosis? etc.

'I encountered a woman who didn't want to be examined. As soon as the doctor approached her with the speculum, she started crying. She was distressed. Therefore, there was no reason to subject her to

further violence.' This cannot be viewed as a challenge because it can occur. There are other ways to obtain forensic evidence. Why insert a speculum into a victim that probably lost her virginity? She will be rigid.

'When she told me she didn't want to report it, I felt a bit upset and disappointed. I suspected maybe she didn't want to.' Why be upset? The victims need proper education and counselling. The cultural/educational and religious setting are the determinants of this behavior. What about autonomy?

What is SPAVO? Any conflict of interest? Why not use an umbrella name like NGO? Mention the role of NGOs in IPV care in the methods section.

Barriers in management

What are the investigations, etc.? Are the midwives the leaders of care?

Presence of partner

'It's like through the way he moved and spoke, the gestures he made seemed like he wanted to tell me something. It was as if he wanted to make me understand that he didn't want her partner to be present in the antenatal clinic.' – Not clear.

Discussion

Good, but the conclusion needs restructuring. Focus on the findings from the study. Recommendations need an update. What about social desirability bias?

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.