**Manuscript evaluation guidelines:**  
**Title: ETHICAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF TRANSSEXUAL PATIENTS**

There are several serious issues with this paper, starting with the title itself. The paper is almost an identical copy of a paper previously published in the same journal, presumably by the same authors. The authors appear to have simply made some minor cosmetic changes in the article. Also, the ideas and arguments presented in the paper are not new. The context, the topic and the substance show considerable overlap. For the reference of the journal editors, I have provided the previous published article (which is the first reference in the present paper) from which the authors have self-plagiarized. This is a very serious issue and I believe this is sufficient grounds for rejecting this paper outright. Nevertheless, I offer below some additional comments on the article.   
  
**Importance of the paper**

The authors have chosen an important topic for study. It is certainly important to focus on the very problematic treatment of queer persons in the fields of psychology and counseling. This is also an issue which is not discussed sufficiently in the Indian context, even though there is much literature in western contexts. It is therefore an issue that undoubtedly worth talking about, especially in the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, given its wide reach and readership. At the same time, the authors have taken a fairly bland and text-bookish approach to the problem, by listing down ethical guidelines in abstraction, without reflecting either on their relevance in the Indian context, or on the gap between practice and theory. The article would be a much more interesting read if the authors provided evidence of what *actually* occurs in practice in medical and psychological settings, rather than simply outlining what *should* occur. Many of the ethical guidelines they refer to are fairly common knowledge that most readers of this journal are likely to be familiar with; so it is not clear what new information or arguments are provided by the authors.

Also, at times, the authors appear to alternate between the stance of, on the one hand, validating queer experiences and queer subjectivities, and, on the other hand, pathologizing queer experiences. I say this because at various times the biomedical model seems to inform their arguments. For instance, statements refer to trans persons as requiring ‘treatment’ and it is not clear here what kind of treatment is being imagined for trans persons. Another example: the authors mention that trans persons might suffer from several mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, phobias, etc. and accordingly, they call for the need for sensitive affirmative therapy. Such arguments can result in further pathologisation of trans people through psychiatric diagnosis rather than in recognizing their distress.

In terms of the literature cited, the authors appear to be unfamiliar with the wealth of literature published in the social sciences on this topic. Most of their references are to studies in mainstream psychology of biomedicine rather than qualitative studies in sociology, psychology and gender studies. There are scholars who have done research on gay-affirmative counselling in the Indian context and this research is not cited. These are serious lacunae.

**Conclusions**In summary, I would not recommend this article for publishing. As said previously, the issue of self-plagiarism should be sufficient grounds for rejection, if nothing else.   
  
**Recommendation**Reject

**Separate comments for the author are given below:**  
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**I would NOT like my name to be published as a reviewer of this paper.**