**Title: Addressing the Relevance of Appropriate Linguistics with respect to Gender Diversity**

**Review comments for the author**

I appreciate the author for taking up a touchy and sensitive issue of a marginalized population that has received scant attention in discussion. The paper addresses a very important issue of using gender and sexuality-inclusive languages in health care settings. I appreciate the author for his vision for a free and equal world at least with respect to health care settings which are intimate spaces where we constantly confront sufferings. But as a journal article, more work needs to be done.

1. **Title & abstract:** As far as the paper has dealt with sexuality and LGBTQIA+ at length, the title of the paper looks inappropriate as it mentions only gender diversity. It is confusing to the reader whether the paper is dealing only with gender identities or sexual diversities or with both. It is confusing throughout the paper as to what this paper is all about Also, the context needs to be spelt out; whether this paper looks at Indian context or the global context. The methodology section is missing.

*Response:*

2. In the Abstract, the author has mentioned **protection laws.** There are no protection laws in the country for non-heteronormative sexual identities except the recent Transgender (people’s) rights law that has been criticized vehemently by the community itself for diluting the Supreme Court judgement of 2014. Please explain: what are the examples of groundwork done for better protection laws for inclusion of people with diverse sexual orientation and gender diversities? Are you talking about the Supreme Court judgments in 2014 and 2018? If yes, Supreme Court judgments, although considered as law, cannot be equated with groundwork on policy changes initiated by executive and legislature. Supreme Court judgments are top-down pronouncements that safeguard constitutional rights. It is often against the groundwork of laws and rules enacted by the majoritarian government. No law was passed or the case was not even allowed to e discussed in parliament for decriminalization of section 377. Are you talking about international laws? Please specify and flesh out your argument with proper references.

*Response:*

3. **Unconscious bias**: Is it only unconscious bias when ministers, politicians and popular figures condemn same-sex relationships in India very openly?When Shashi Tharoor MP moved a bill in the Lok Sabha it was not even allowed to be discussed. When trangender people get murdered in places such as Kerala touted as the most progressve state in India, it shows blatant discrimination which doesn’t limit to the level of thought. It is sheer, conscious action to get rid of the ‘different’ and the ‘deviant’.

*Response:*

4.**LGBTQ+**: What about asexual identified person’s inclusion? 'A' is missing in the acronym LGBTQ+ and the table given on terms related to sexual/gender diversities. As this paper is on use of gender affirmative language, such omissions are not expected from the author. The identity of 'asexual' is one that is silenced and that which don't appear often in the public discourse. There is a similar sidelining of the category even in the academic discourse too.

*Response:*

5.**Effect on psyche**: What are the effects of discrimination on physical health as well as mental health. How are they connected? Can you elaborate on the physical effects of discrimination-neurohormonal pathways (with references) which would give a nuanced picture about how discrimination has a bearing on health.

*Response:*

7. **Fundamental rights:** Which would be the most appropriate term to be used when people are denied their right to identity, according to you? Fundamental rights or natural rights or human rights?

*Response:*

8.In the Introduction, the author writes: **“Over the years, we have seen multiple gender reforms being taken up by governments”.** Which government? Please be specific. Give examples, references to your claims. Also, again, are you only looking at gender rights? Or also sexuality rights in this article?

*Response:*

9. ‘**Translation of these laws’**- Which laws are being talked about?-global or national? what is the context?It is important to give context in the introduction with citations.

*Response:*

10. **“Major deficit in acceptance and the high prevalence of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)”** - There are many studies on this. The author can visit UN Free and Equal website to get some statistics on this. Substantiating the claims with citations is vital.

*Response:*

11. **“Yet, not everybody is as privileged”.-** Why are they not privileged?Who is denying them that privilege?

*Response:*

12. **The paper needs careful editing.** There are many repetitive themes and ideas and poor sentence constructions that points to careless manuscript preparation. As an ilustration, some (not all) are cited below.

- Therefore, building a wall between the doctor and patient leading to a communication gap in their correspondence.

- An individual’s manner and style of display, including physical appearance, clothing choice, etc., and behaviour that conveys aspects of gender or gender role. Which does not necessarily conform to a person’s gender identity

- The a line of reasoning for needing to know these terms is mainly since the drawback is about language and not gender.

*Response:*

13. **Table 1 is titled *Terms and their definitions for understanding gender diversity****.* But the table contains many gender discriminatory terms like gender dysphoria. How do you look at gender dysphoria?What about its ontological status according to you?How should the health professionals look at this category proposed by psychiatry? Asexuality is not mentioned at all. Are these references (terminology) taken from the two cited journals as it is ? Or are the descriptions of these terms written by the author himself? When you use the term 'traits' is it that you are trying to say that that it is a biologically inherent character?If we reduce people's identities biologically, what happens to choices of people's agency and ability to make choices?

*Response:*

12. As the paper is on language and inclusion it would be good to elaborate on the function of language. Therer are scholarly works which show that language is performative, it creates reality, language is action. (e.g. Forrester (2010) states that "language produces culturally dominant ideas").

*Response:*

13. **“By making certain that waiting rooms and common areas in hospitals have posters, pamphlets, etc. on LGBTQ+ can act as a stepping stone in reflecting a supportive surrounding”-** Have you been able to see this change at some hospitals? Do you have any data or first hand information to illustrate?

*Response:*

14. **“Currently the course of action being taken up by health professionals lacks the required LGBTQ+ inclusivity, rendering these hospitals as hostile environments for them”**- How did the author arrive at this conclusion? Is it based on personal experience?If yes, elaborate.Otherwise please cite relevant literature.

*Response:*

15. “**In the current healthcare system there is a lack of mutual respect”- According to you what creates this atmoshere?** What do you think makes the clinical space violative of human rights? Where does the problem lie?There is literature on human rights and medicine which you can read (Dainius Puras's work on psychiatry is something you can refer to)

*Response:*

14. Please check your manuscript for some other comments regarding repeated ideas, summary and conclusion section **(it is in track-changes mode).**

**MS Editor’s Comments:**

The reviewer has proposed almost a complete overhaul of the paper, but many of the suggestions are good.

1. In the main paper, the subheadings critique, summary and conclusion are one too many. The paper has to end with either a summary or a conclusion.

2. The language needs work

3. It could be looked at as an Essay or a Comment; better as a Comment. In that case we need not get into Methods and Results etc.

However, every line posited may have to be evaluated in terms of available data, which must then be cited.

4. The regulations referred to and steps by the government should be mentioned in full. Global efforts and protocols too must be included to strengthen the essay

5. The author would benefit from the reviewers comments. Especially the last few comments. It will help to lift the quality of the essay and introduce a depth to the arguments.

*Response:*

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