**Title**: Marital Rape and Divergent laws in India: A Review

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**Review Comments**

This piece talks of the sensitive and politically urgent issue of marital rape and falls well within the scope of this journal; marital rape as an issue, an event and experience has been discussed by various stakeholders who have discussed the issue from a range of different vantage points. To that extent, nothing this submission says is radically new, but having said that, the submission mentions that it is a review of the situation and the laws, and that is a legitimate exercise to undertake. However, there is a need to draw the attention of the author to the following points, and request her/him to revise the submission and resubmit to the journal at the earliest:

1) Phrases like "unavoidable actuality of civilization" have to be explained or rewritten for it conveys nothing to the reader.

2) There is a need for an overall checking of the grammar, syntax and structure of some sentences which end in an incomplete sense.

3) The legal expert who reviewed this submission expressed the concern that the court rulings, guidelines etc. have not been referenced in the mandated format (we are not talking about the general citation as per the IJME's format which nonetheless applies to all other references and general styling of this submission; this applies to the parts where the author has evoked court rulings, cases, procedures, etc.); Request the author to please check with the standard citation format for the legal references and make the necessary changes.

4) It would be good if the author could provide examples of court cases, judgements which would help further reinstate the contradictions in the law which is the main focus of the paper. For instance, s/he concludes the abstract by saying that "it is high time for India to criminalize marital rape instead of considering it just a form of domestic violence." S/he also talks about the Domestic Violence Act -- but we are keen to have some more discussion on the DVA and its limitations and inadequacies when it is used in cases of alleged rape in a marriage; it is important for us, the author and also the journal, to strengthen the argument to ask for a new legislation with specific focus on rape in marriage by illustrating the ways how it (marital rape) is outside and beyond violence in a marriage (which DVA covers) -- there is absolute necessity to argue for that in a better, stronger way, in clearer terms; maybe with the help of examples which would show up the limitations of the DVA.

5) Some discussion on *why*the Verma Committee's recommendation was not accepted, and what does it say about the mindset of those who sit at the helm of judicial power and decide on what is best for the collective, should be there. I think some discussion on this is very important. Otherwise to keep asking for a law would make it seem that there has never been any further movement on this issue ever; it is important to also foreground that we did have a recommendation but it *still*got dismissed; why, how, and what does that mean are important to be mentioned in this paper.

6) Please ensure that while editing/rewriting, the length of this does not increase. The current length is fine and the author should try and stick to it as much as possible.