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

**Author**: Sunil Doshi

**Review Comments and answers from author**

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

**Ans. Rewritten**

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

**Ans. Grammer checked and mistakes rectified, sentences modified which were ended 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.

**Ans. All the acts cited are modified in reference list according to guidelines on legal citation in India, one “court ruling” reference was not modified as it was taken from a website which contains court rulings and I was not able to retrieve the judgment from the court reporter directly.**

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.

**Ans. Adding more examples may enrich the overall content but it was very hard to find the case of domestic violence in the context of marital rape as the cases were actually filed under S.498A IPC&/ PWDVA with the chief complaint of physical cruelty. Adding those cases may unnecessary lengthen the overall script and may be seems unjustified especially when focus is on marital rape. However, Discussion on DVA added** **which highlights current lacunae in its implementation. Asking for separate legislation added already.**

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.

Ans. **New Section created containing the information regarding inception of CLA,2013 along with movements from public and govt. side at the time of making new anti rape law. “Why vermacommittee reco. were not fully accepted” is added.**

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.

**Ans. Length is slight increased.**

**Note-**

**Changes in the manuscript is highlighted in yellow colour as far as possible except sentence modifying and grammar correction which are complied but not highlighted**

**Author is thankful to the reviewer for his/her guidance to enrich the content of the manuscript.**