Fomani Conducting Qualitative Health Researches with Working Adolescents: Ethical Challenges

**Comments of Reviewer 1:**

**General comments:**

1. This is an important paper related to a less discussed topic. The authors have addressed most of the important issues that a qualitative researcher may encounter when working with `working adolescents”. They have reviewed most of the literature on this topic.

2. It is global in reach and will be an important read for IRB members and qualitative researchers.  
3. The information it the paper may not be new, but the article has synthesized the literature on the topic. There is repetition and the article is dense in places. It may be important to give some case examples and add guidance on how researchers can handle the ethical dilemmas. This will make the article easier to read and less tedious.

4. It needs to be checked for plagiarism, as there may be more than a few lines taken from different articles. Tables have been cited in their original form from articles and chapters for which copyright maybe needed.

**Specific comments:**

1. The paper is longer than the average IJME article and length should be reduced. The authors could decrease the section on Child Labour, prevalence etc and focus only on the ethical issues.

2. They could add a separate heading/section on the responsibility of the IRB in assessing such research and some discussion on how to report adverse events or researcher distress. While this is discussed in the text, it is not noticeable in the paper.

3. As mentioned above, having a couple of case examples, will add to the readability and relevance of the article.

4. I would recommend dividing the article into different sections such as consent process, IRB responsibility, handling sensitive information, relationship between the researcher and the adolescent and so on.

5. I would also like to see some discussion on cultural issues and the identity and autonomy of adolescents in western and non-western cultures.

6. The authors may also want to refer to the WHO guidelines on the topic and provide a link rather than adding a table.

7. A language and grammar check will make the article more readable.

**Comments of Reviewer 2:**

 1. The paper needs a clear focus. It is presently neither completely a review paper, nor an empirical paper.

 2. The discussion on the social problems facing working adolescents is unnecessary. The paper should be focused on research with working adolescents and ethical issues faced therein.

3. There is too much material, which is just simply lifted and cited (tables particularly). Please ensure that it meets plagiarism norms.

4. There is no clear central argument in the paper as it meanders from point to point. Also, there is a mix-up between normative guidelines for research with adolescents and actual problems faced in the process.

5. The paper is more in the nature of a student's assignment, rather than a journal article.  My opinion is that it does not add much value to existing knowledge and, hence, can be rejected.

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