**Manuscript evaluation guidelines**Title:  
  
  
1. Importance of the paper :  Does it address issues relevant to the fields of bioethics and medical ethics in the developing countries?

The paper has the potential to address relevant issues in the context of bioethics but they need to be written sharply . The examples about contraception / family planning, medical termination of pregnancy and lack of access to it , lack of recognition of male rape and lastly virginity as a concept all raise serious issues of ethical practices for medical practioners . But the writing needs to bring in those concerns   
  
2. Is it topical? Is the issue discussed from another country's/culture perspective? Will it influence practice or policy? Is it too specialized for the journal?

* The issue is definitely topical and an extremely important one. The paper in its current form does not take in to consideration an entire EPW series on review of medical textbooks done in 2005 for 5 disciplines . Hence it needs to build on the existing work carried out and then assess whether medical textbooks have changed from that review or not .
* There are several concerns raised by the author but they have not been elaborated upon. If this paper looks at review of core medical textbooks of forensic science , community medicine and gynaecology then I believe that far more indepth review needs to be done
* The review does not even say why are these subjects being picked up ? is this because they influence the students most ? The reader does not get a picture of that
* The paper needs to be a 5000 words paper elaborating on 3 core concepts mentioned in my answer to question 1   
    
  3. Originality Is the information /comment new?Is there any likelihood of plagiarism?
* The information does not seem new as the issue of contraception and MTP both have been covered in great detail in different reviews in the past .
* The author needs to say that this was a recent review mention the entire list of textbooks and publication date and compare it to old reviews and then comment on whether changes have occurred or not . In its current form it does not do that   
    
    
  4. Conclusions Is the interpretation warranted, unwarranted, well developed? Does the article contain loose generalisations?Are there any important omissions?
* The interpretations are warranted but not completely justified
* The author can dwell in detail on gaps in medical textbooks and create a framework for analysis. For this it requires some kind of theoretical frame work. The author does mention human rights , but it needs to be explored in detail . The nature of family planning, contraception, rape examination and virginity violates which human rights principles is currently missing  
    
    
  5. Other comments  
    
    
  6. Recommendation  
    
   Accept as is  
    
   Accept with modifications (specify) Suggestions have been provided below. The paper needs significant modifications.  
    
   - style

- substance  
  
  
  
7. Separate comments for the author

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Please let us know whether you would like your name to be published as a reviewer of the manuscript.

This is optional.

7. Additional comments :

1. I would suggest contextualising the opening of the paper to the international commitments as well make an alignment to national health policy while talking about the need for gender perspective in medical education/ textbooks/teaching
2. I would also like to draw the attention of author to the 2006 WHO technical report that speaks about the need to integrate gender in medical education and that needs to be referenced here . These aspects need to bring in important global efforts and then raise question about why India is lagging behind
3. In the second paragraph It would be better to state that Medical training is not just about clinical diagnosis but the medical conditions that people face . Those are a by product of their living conditions and intersectionalites .
4. There are very important concepts such as family planning / contraception , Medical termination of pregnancy and others mentioned . The author needs to mention a rationale for highlighting these four issues . The fact that they affect women disproportionately and that is why they are focused upon ? The rationale is missing
5. The author critiques the text book and teaching for being heteronormative and also unidimensional but does not dwell upon in detail . What are the implications of such textbooks needs to be stated explicitly. An important point can be made that concept of sexuality , sexual orientations and sexual practices are completely missing in UG in India . Each of these need to be discussed in detail before embarking on the term heteronormative
6. The term rape is being discussed in the context of male rape in forensic textbook , but it is important to connect it to the context of armed conflict , presence of military , in custody and so on and these situations are not presented in textbooks thus medical students do not have the perspective to understand that men can be raped . The context is missing
7. Lastly an important point on virginity is being made . But the point is not pursued . The fact that virginity testing is not a scientific procedure . The author raises a question that females are tested for virginity and not men . but we do not want either sex to be tested for virginity as its archaic and unscientific . it is important to raise ethical concerns related to virginity testing . A paper on this was published by WHO Garcia Moreno recently related to the issue of virginity. The author could reference it .
8. Lastly it is important for the author to refer to such a review that was done in 2005 in womens studies issue of the EPW . 5 medical textbooks of different discplines were reviewed from a gender perspective . Where do the textbooks stand today in that comparison is an important contribution from this paper