Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) Clearance Letter

The Institutional Ethics Committee reviewed and discussed your application to conduct the study entitled “WOMEN’S AUTONOMY AND UTILIZATION OF MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES IN KAPILVASTU DISTRICT, NEPAL” (IEC/617) on 7th June, 2014.

The following documents were reviewed:

5. Structured interview schedule & scale - English & Nepali versions.
6. CV – Tulsi Ram Bhandari.
The following members of the Ethics Committee were present at the meeting held on 7th June, 2014 at G. Parthasarathi Board Room, AMCHSS, SCTIMST.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. No.</th>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Highest Degree</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Scientific/Non Scientific</th>
<th>Affiliation with Institution(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Justice Gopinathan. P.S</td>
<td>BSc, LLB</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Legal Expert (Chairperson)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dr. Meenu Hariharan</td>
<td>DM</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Clinician (Gastro Enterologist)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Dr. M.D. Gupte</td>
<td>MD, DPH</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Dr. R.V.G. Menon</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Lay Person</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dr. Mala Ramanathan</td>
<td>MSc, PhD, MA</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Ethicist/Social Scientist (Member Secretary)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IEC Decision

The IEC approved the conduct of the study in the present form.

Remarks:

The Institutional Ethics Committee expects to be informed about the progress of the study, any SAE occurring in the course of the study, any changes in the protocol and patient information/informed consent and asks to be provided a copy of the final report.

There was no member of the study team/guide who participated in voting/decision making process. The ethics committee is organized and operated according to the requirements of Good Clinical Practice and the requirements of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mala Ramanathan
Member Secretary, IEC