Reviewer's report

Title: Suicidal ideation and associated factors among school-going adolescents in rural Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 9 August 2007

Reviewer: Esben Agerbo

Reviewer's report:

General

It is fairly clear and short papers, which, together with the fact that it is conducted in rural Uganda, are the main virtues of this paper.

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Table 1 is not informative. The number of study participant who had considered suicide should be shown in each cell in table 1 – how should a reader otherwise evaluate the odds ratios shown in table 2? Moreover, NONE of the counts in the first column sum up to 1506! Just to mention the first three, they add up to 1434, 1460 and 7334.

This manuscript is packed with percentages, but the numbers of exposed cases and controls are totally missing – they should even be in the abstract. It is hard to escape the suspicion that this, together with the weighting factors, blurs the actual information in this study.

It is surprising that the authors didn’t mention some of the several recent papers on suicidal behaviour in Uganda by e.g. Ovuga E, Boardman J, Wasserman D, Hjelmeland H, Kinyanda E, Buga JW or Guwatudde D.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests