Reviewer’s report

Title: Gender-related power differences, beliefs and reactions towards people living with HIV/AIDS: An urban study in Nigeria

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2010

Reviewer: Khadidiatou Ndiaye

Reviewer’s report:

The authors chose an interesting topic and have a great sample. However, the manuscript has some major areas of improvement before it can be published.

Major Compulsory revisions

1. The major issue is that the manuscript does not offer anything new to the literature. It is well established now that gender dynamics impact the entire HIV/AIDS continuum (from susceptibility to living with the disease). The basic questions the manuscript addresses do not lend themselves to anything innovative. For instance, the authors write: “Differences in negative reactions towards men and women living with HIV/AIDS may be related to their gender in the society”. There are years of research establishing that these differences are indeed related to gender roles.

2. Next, the literature review remains at a very superficial level. Gender roles are complex, for instance there are well known matriarchal societies in Nigeria. Why are these complexities not addressed? The stigma literature is barely addressed and it is central to this question. Finally, the authors do not really make a case for using the Connell’s theory? Why is this theory chosen and most importantly is it culturally appropriate for the population of study?

3. Methods: The authors do no explain some of choices made (i.e. why intercept and convenience sample? Why address these 3 different populations? If the authors’ choice is in line with model, such argument needs to be made. The rationale for choices made is critical in qualitative studies.

4. Results/Discussion: Again, the question of innovative aspect is salient (see pt1)

I do think the data the authors were able to collect holds rich insights that need to be further explored in all of their complexity. For instance, the health context may be an angle to focus on. Good luck!!

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests