Reviewer's report

Title: Reductions in violence against female sex workers following a violence intervention programme in Karnataka state, South India: serial cross-sectional assessments

Version: 1 Date: 6 April 2010

Reviewer: Arsene Bienvenu B Ahoyo

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is well written and contains original and interesting data. It is well discussed. The multi-layered strategy included all actors involved in the violence against FSWs. The content and the form are good. The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found. The limitations of the work are clearly stated. The article is good to be published. However I made a few suggestions and corrections.

Abstract
Define the CI (confidence interval) the first time you use it. Put comma after OR or AOR before writing 95%CI.

Results
Title 2: FSW experience of violence in the last year and exposure to HIV prevention program components should be: FSW experience of violence in last year, exposure to HIV prevention program components.

Ethical considerations
This paragraph should be before the paragraph ‘statistical analyses’ so just after methods.

Statistical analyses
In results paragraph, you mentioned at the bottom of the tables that AOR were calculated in multivariate analysis taking into account some variables but other are left from socio-demographic and sex characteristics table, it would be important to explain briefly the reason of this or on which criteria the variables have been chosen in the statistical analysis.

Methods
You did not talk about the informed consent of participants while they answered questionnaire and gave urine and blood sample. Even if this consent is oral, you must mention it in the methods.

Discussion
You wrote, the conversion of a hostile environment to a more facilitative enabling environment for sex work has been reported as a contributing factor to improved condom use. I think that an awareness of FSWs and clients improve the condom use. They can have accessed to service and have a facilitative environment for
sex and do not use the condom. You can address this reason

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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