Reviewer’s report

Title: Parental control and monitoring of young people’s sexual behaviour in rural North-Western Tanzania: Implications for sexual and reproductive health interventions

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Reviewer: Sia Msuya

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BMC Public Health
Title: Parental control and monitoring of young people’s sexual behavior in rural North-Western Tanzania: Implications for sexual and reproductive health interventions

General:
The study is timely and the objective is good because there is limited literature or information regarding parental control and monitoring in developing countries. However there are some questions the authors need to address.

Minor Essential Reviews:
1. The introduction does not present clear line of argumentation. The reader doesn’t know what main research question is.
2. The main outcome variables are monitoring and control and authors defined the terms at the end of the introduction. However when one reads through the results and discussion sections this distinction is not clear at all and the reader is not sure what the authors are addressing between the 2 variables.
3. The data collection procedure and tools needs to be described in a systematic way. For example the authors say personal observation was assessed by ‘jotting down notes’ were they just jotting anything or did they have guidelines on what to look for and who to watch?
4. Can the authors briefly mention the questions addressed in the interview guide especially for the youths so that the readers will be able to follow the results and argument raised in the discussion?
5. The idea of doing multi-method approach (triangulation) is good but one has to provide rationale for it. The way observation data, FGD and IDI data was reported is as if it was all the same.
6. Measurement of health related outcome is not clearly described. The main aim of the study was to examine influence of parental control & monitoring on young people’s sexual decision making or behaviors that would increase vulnerability to HIV. Can the authors specifically mention which specific aspects of sexual decision making or risk behaviors they were evaluating e.g. Is it starting sex early, is it having many sexual partners, is it having concurrent partners, or is it...
using protection like condoms or contraceptives during sexual encounter etc

7. Several places the authors’ refer to undesirable sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes, but only one is mention unplanned/unwanted pregnancy. Were there other SRH outcomes evaluated? If so mention them or just use unplanned pregnancy instead of broad term like SRH.

8. Is it possible for the authors to give a brief (one paragraph), general summary on how the youths in rural Mwanza regard their parents in terms of these issues: Do they think their parents respect them as individuals? Do they think they adequately provide basic needs for them and do they take/ regard them as their role models? Those three will help the reader to judge the control and monitoring relation between the youths and their parents.

9. In general the paper is difficult to read and follow. It is too long with many repetitions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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 i have no competing interests