Reviewer's report

Title: What factors are associated with recent intimate partner violence? Findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence

Version: 1 Date: 18 November 2010

Reviewer: Oladimeji Oladepo

Reviewer's report:

1. General
This is an article of importance in its field. One observation is late the presentation for publication (2010), given the completion of study in 2003

2. Abstract
a. Include how respondents were selected
b. Conclusion needs to reflect the importance of promoting equal access to education for boys and girls (protection)

3. Background
Has this study been published elsewhere? Is reference paper No 1 “Garcia-Moreno C, Jansen HA, Ellsberg M, Heise L, and Watts CH: Prevalence of intimate partner violence: findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. Lancet 2006, 368(9543):1260-1269” a publication from the same work? If yes, in what way is the current paper different?

4. Methods
a. Need to operationally define “physically and sexually violent”
b. Data collection in “capital or another large city and one predominantly rural province in first five countries” and “one site in the next five” raises comparability concern. Attribution to logistical and financial considerations (as part of study limitation) is not compelling enough as these should have been anticipated at the planning stage and realized during field testing. Further explanation is needed on what constitutes “logistical consideration”
c. How did the authors deal with situations in which a woman changes partner within past year? Which partner was selected by the woman for IPV report?
d. How were respondents selected in polygamous settings?
e. What measures were taken to address variations in practice of “Currently-or previously-partnered women” between countries (in accordance with local notions of partnerships)

5. Findings
   a. Report IPV prevalence in the countries studied
   b. Is it possible to examine the pattern of association between IPV and length of working hours in relative employment status?

Major Compulsory Revisions
3, 4b, 4c

Minor Essential Revisions
1, 2a 2b, 4a, 4d, 4e, 5a

Discretionary Revisions
5

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 that I have no competing interests