Reviewer's report

Title: Substance use and its predictors among undergraduate medical students of Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2011

Reviewer: Victor Mwanakasale

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions.
1. The authors should revisit the title, is it substance use or abuse? Substance use may be harmless.
2. In the Abstract, the objective should be "to determine" rather than to "to asses" the prevalence of substance abuse and "identify" factors.....
3. In the abstract, where is the analysis to support association between "use" and parental use of substance?
4. In the Introduction, let the authors decide is it abuse or use?
5. In the second paragraph of Introduction, first sentence, let the sentence end at drugs and start the second sentence with "This problem highly impairs ....."
6. On page 5, second paragraph, what are these "chronic problems"?
7. On page 5, again decide is it use or abuse. If its just use how did you grade it? and the same applies for "abuse", what is the grade.
8. On page 5, third paragraph, the second sentence should be "..the magnitude of self reported substance abuse and identify risk factors." Again why have you used "substance abuse" and not "substance use"?
9. Page 6, second paragraph, this was a qualitative research study and what you collected is "qualitative data" and not "quantitative data" since the collected data is subjective.
10. Page 8, 9, 10, 11, under Results, this needs to be re-written. What you have written here is already presented in the Tables 1-6. This is a repetition and not interesting. Pick out only significant observations and summarise observations and make reference to the appropriate tables. Do NOT repeat what is already in the tables.
11. Page 9. first paragraph, "illiterate" and NOT "not literate"
12. End you paper with "Recommendations"

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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