Reviewer's report

**Title:** Factors associated with high prevalence of HIV among Hijra (transgender) Sex Worker in Larkana, Pakistan: An analytical cross sectional study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 25 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Saifur Rahman

**Reviewer's report:**

The objective/research question needs further clarification. The authors mentioned about investigating factors associated with HIV infection among Hijra sex workers (HSW) in Larkana as an objective in the abstract. However, in the introduction section, they have mentioned about comparing the factors in cities and also, the result section shows the comparative analyses by cities.

The method of the study has been well described. But it is too much descriptive for a journal article. The sample size calculation doesn’t need to be described. Only a briefing on sampling including target population by cities, sampling technique and criteria for inclusion and exclusion; data collection, testing techniques for HIV would be enough. It should not be more than two or three short paragraphs.

The data seems to be very sound. However, the method used for analysis has not been clearly mentioned. In fact, the authors stated about uni- and multi variable analyses. However, the logistic regression modeling has not been clearly stated. In addition, the authors compared factors within a group (HSW in Larkan) and also, among the groups (HSW in Larkan and other cities). However, the method used to compare characteristics by HIV infection and also HIV infection by cities is not clear and also, confusing. The tables showing uni and multi variable analyses are not clear or self-explanatory. In presenting the independent and dependent variables in the tables need to be revised. In addition, comparison of characteristics by HIV in different cities should be shown in a separate table. Tables to show association between factors and HIV should include HIV prevalence to make the tables self-explanatory.

In the result section, there are repetitions of information presented in the tables. In fact, table 1, 3 and 4 can be excluded. Instead, information in those tables can be included as text in the result section.

Comparison of HIV risk factors among different cities has appeared to be an important objective of the study. But it does not reflect properly in the title and the abstract.

The authors have acknowledged others’ work. However, referencing needs to be revised. For an example, referencing was not done properly in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the introduction and discussion respectively. The conclusion need to be shorten and putting a reference in the conclusion is not a good idea.
The term “Hijra” needs to be defined. However, the topic of the paper is interesting and important as well. I recommend the paper to be published with necessary revision and I would like to review the revised version.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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