Reviewer's report

Title: Characterizing the sexual life-course of women prior to self-reported entry into sex work in south India from a cross-sectional survey: implications for STI/HIV prevention programming

Version: 2 Date: 18 August 2012

Reviewer: Monica Malta

Reviewer's report:

The authors fully addressed all my concerns and suggestions, presenting a well-organized paper. The revised version indicates the study limitations and even bias associated with their research question and recruitment strategy. The authors clearly explained the difference between devadasi and non-devadasi sex workers, and, most importantly, they included a multivariate analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions

There are just a few aspects that need clarification:

1. Table 4 presents the following values for R-square: 0.47 and 0.51. However, the authors mention that variance explained by the regression was 57% and 61%. Please review.

2. Table format (borders) should follow BMC Public Health guidelines. Please review.

Congratulations, the revised paper addressed all my criticism and presents an interesting approach towards a better understand female sex workers social context and higher vulnerability towards HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

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

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'