Reviewer’s report

Title: Barbers’ knowledge and practice about health hazards associated with their work was low in Gondar town, North West Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 8 August 2012

Reviewer: Shafquat M Rafiq

Reviewer’s report:

1. Major compulsory revisions:
   A. Page 6 (Results): Please clarify the apparent conflicting information contained in paragraph 2 and paragraph 3. Where as in paragraph 2, 78% of the respondents are aware of health hazards related to the profession, in para 3 as well as in table 3, all respondents i.e. 100% have good knowledge of the hazards of HIV and head lice. One would assume this will make 100% participants aware of some form of health hazards.
   B. Figure 1 and page 6 para 4:” ..18% had good knowledge about health hazards related to their work”: What constitutes good knowledge needs to be explained for this conclusion. Simple awareness of the disease names should not be regarded as good knowledge.

2. Minor essential revisions:
   A. A clearer picture regarding Gondar town and its barbers is required which should be presented in either introduction or discussion. What kind of training a barber is expected to complete before they start their practice and does it include health training? Is there any initiative by the Gov. or other organisation to educate the barbers?
   B. Page 17 (Table 2): some “sources of information” need further clarification that can be offered along with the above (minor revision 2A). What does the training entail? Is there any health and safety training for barbers? What kind of book has been implied here, whether it is indeed public health book needs to be specified? This is important to get a clearer image of the barbers’ depth of knowledge.
   C. Page 17 (table 3): How good knowledge and poor knowledge has been differentiated?

3. Discretionary revisions:
   Page 9-10: “The other reason could the socio economic characteristic of the study participants which may affect the availability of the required materials for safe practice”. Please clarify how the barbers studied in Gondar are different from others studied. Is their average income likely to be higher or are they likely to be better educated?

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

**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