Reviewer's report

Title: Do male sex workers from India need intensified HIV prevention interventions?

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Reviewer: Jin-quan Cheng

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The title of this manuscript "Do male sex workers from India need intensified HIV prevention interventions" is not closely related to the content. The result in this study analyzed the STI prevalence and related demographic and behavioral characteristics of MSW, but did not analyze the willingness or accessibility to different kind of interventions, which may not be able to answer if MSW in India need intensified interventions.

2. In page 5 last paragraph the authors mentioned "MSWs were defined as those who had ever received cash or kind in exchange for sex." Does it mean lifelong or within a certain period of time? For example, a man sold sex ten years ago and then withdrew from sex selling; he is still defined as a MSW in your study?

3. The authors only provide the sample size of MSM in each of the two cities, but did not provide the sample size of MSWs, which make it difficult to identify the statistical power of MSWs by city. In addition, the sample sizes of some subgroups/categories are small (e.g. non-MSW, MSW by duration of selling sex), which may also affect the statistical power.

4. Page 9 last paragraph: “Duration of selling sex was strongly associated with the prevalence of HIV…and HSV-2...”. Only based on chi-square test but without a multivariate analysis that controlled for the effects of confounders, no statistical association could be concluded.

5. Discussion part: The proportion of MSW is about 36% among MSM based on population estimation data (page 3 para 3), but the proportion reach to 70% in this study. The difference should be discussed. In addition, the HIV prevalence in one city is significantly higher than the other. Does it have any possible explanations?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Don't use MSMs. MSM is an abbreviation for men who have sex with men, which is already a plural. (e.g. abstract part para 3)

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests