Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of Knowledge on Sexually Transmitted Infections and Sexual Risk Behaviour in two rural districts of Bhutan.

Version: 2 Date: 3 October 2013

Reviewer: Donovan McGrowder

Reviewer's report:

COMMENTS FOR AUTHORS:

The authors assessed knowledge on STI and sexual risk behavior in two rural districts of Bhutan: Gasa and Zhemgang.

The authors are asked to note the following:

Major and Minor Compulsory Revisions

Introduction & Abstract

1. The study addresses important problems or issues; the study is worth doing especially as it is the first major study of this kind among persons living in these two districts.

2. The abstract is appropriately structured according to the instructions but the word count exceeds the limit of 350 words.

3. The introduction builds a logical case for the reason(s) why the study should be performed.

4. It is noted that four of the five references were from the Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan and so the authors could have included information from other sources outside of Bhutan. This could improve the introduction.

5. The variables being investigated were quite clearly stated.

Method

6. The experimental design is described.

7. The authors could have included the populations of the two districts Gasa and Zhemgang.

8. Were the Health Assistants trained to conduct the study?

9. Was a pilot study conducted? How many persons were used?

10. Why was only the age group 15 – 49 years used?

11. What was the source of the questions on the questionnaire?

12. How was the study conducted – were the respondents selected randomly or by convenient sampling?
13. What was the response rate?
14. There is evidence that ethical approval was obtained for the study.
15. In the statistically analysis what was regarded as statistically significant? p < 0.05?

Results and discussion

16. The information regarding the five aspect of knowledge about SRIs in the community is more appropriate for the method. It would be useful to give some detail about the instrument used.
17. There need to be more evidence that the appropriate statistical tool was used to analyze the results of the study.
18. The presentation of the figures could be improved; there should be a label on the y-axis of Figures 2, 4 – 7 etc.
19. Interpretations of the results are appropriate as the authors cited similar studies. It was noted that comparisons were made with only two studies outside of Bhutan – one conducted in Sweden (reference 6) and Nepal (reference 9). The discussion could be improved by looking at similar studies conducted in a few more countries.
20. The conclusion does corroborate with the findings of the study.

References

21. Some of the references were primary sources. The authors should pay keen attention to the reference style of the journal.

**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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

The answer is NO to all the questions asked above.