Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychoactive Substances Use and Associated Factors among Axum University Students, Axum Town, North Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2013

Reviewer: Kristina Brache

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The information contained in the manuscript is interesting and informative. However, the presentation of the information could use a lot of work. The manuscript is much too lengthy and contains less relevant graphs and information. The content needs to be reduced and the writing needs to be more concise. For example. Page 5: Definitions are likely not needed in this format, perhaps only a short comments on how current use is being considered (past 30 days); much of the Methods section could be reduced; The number of tables in the Methods section needs to be reduced. Figure 4 could be deleted and simply written in one sentence; The discussion is excessive and uses odd examples for comparison (e.g., Sweden, pg 26?); discussion gives way too many examples for comparison and does not get to the point. More space needs to be given to the limitations of this study. Overall, this manuscript would greatly benefit from being pared down.

Minor Essential Revisions

Spelling and Grammar must be revised throughout. Some use of strong language should be changed (e.g., pg. 2: leading causes of human suffering), Page 2: psychiatric disorders should be changed to psychiatric symptoms as they are not examples of disorders. Page 10, occasionally should be defined. "First use" should replace the use of the term "starting time." Page 9, The minimum age in Ethiopia should be specified.

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:

none