Reviewer's report

Title: Work-related violence and inconsistent condom use with non-paying partners among female sex workers in Adama City, Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2013

Reviewer: Parinita Bhattacharjee

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Since the title focuses on violence and the findings show correlation between violence and condom use, the evidence related to violence in sex work and in consistent condom use should be placed before the evidence related to alcohol.

2. There should be also evidence to understand what is the situation related to intimate partner violence in the country. Is it generally high or low? Is IPV or domestic violence tolerated in the society? Then place IPV among sex workers and non paying partners in that larger context.

3. The context of sex work needs a better description. How does sex work take place in these establishments? Do sex workers generally face violence? Who are the perpetrators etc

4. The terms regular clients, non paying partners, regular, non paying partners seem to be used interchangeably and can be confusing (page 10). It would be good if the terminology is consistent or better still if these identities are defined.

5. Work related violence need to be defined well. In the discussion the authors talk about violence due to intimacy and dependence, hence it is not clear why they are terming the violence experienced in non paying partnerships as work related violence. In page 6 it is mentioned that these non paying partners are perceived as sexual partners outside of their work.

6. Though the authors mention that non paying partnerships are high risk they should provide some information / evidence on why? Though reference of Benin is made there should be evidence from Ethiopia cited if any. If there is no evidence that this should be mentioned as area of further research.

Minor Essential Revisions

7. Did the survey ask any question on how many non paying partners the sex workers have at a given point? It would be interesting to understand that to profile the context better. Some profiling of these non paying partners would have been good like how many non paying partners do these sex workers have, profile of sex workers who have these partners etc to explain this relationship a bit more. That would have added value to understand why such violence happens and why condom use is low. Currently it is drawing from other studies. If the study cannot answer this then it should be mentioned as areas of further research
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests