Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Factors Determining Psychoactive Substance (PAS) use among Hawassa University (HU) Undergraduate Students, Hawassa Ethiopia

Version: 7  Date: 11 August 2014

Reviewer: Stefanie Helmer

Reviewer's report:

The article has been improved but there is still a lack of clarity concerning some issues.

Minor essential revisions:

Abstract:
Page 1, Line 21: The word 'Use' is mentioned twice in this sentence. Please delete use after (PAS).

Results:
Page 4, Line 143, 144: Please use spaces after numbers (i.e. line 143, after 479)
Page 5, Line 163-169: Throughout this paragraph there are many small mistakes. For instance, 'by 90(29.6%) and 62(19.7%) respondants respectively'.-Please delete numbers of participants and replace respondants by respondents. Furthermore, please delete one space and the dot after respectively. Please revise the whole section.

Discussion:
Page 6, Line 196: Replace life-time by lifetime.
Page 6, Line 202: 'In contrast to the results of other studies conducted in Ethiopian Universities, these are the most commonly used PASs.' Please cite the studies you are referring to. Furthermore, please indicate what is meant by ‘In contrast’ and give a short impression about the results of the other studies.
Page 7, Line 241: Unlike other similar studies [11,12,27,28] , this study never reported use of illicit or un-prescribed psycho active medications (NPS). This sentence is not easy to understand. Please rephrase. Furthermore, replace psycho active by psycho active.
Page 7, Line 248: That no student reported the use of Relevin is no faultless argument for a non-existing bias as all participants indicated to use none of the drugs at all. Please clarify this statement.

Tables:
Table 2: Please replace abuse by use.
Table 3: Please revise table 3 (Pear= peer; Sleep= sleep) and add use to the
heading (PAS use).

Discretionary Revisions:

Abstract:
Page 1, Line 29: The abbreviation ‘PAS’ is already explained in the introduction of the abstract. Please use the abbreviation in the methods section and not repeat the explanation.

Introduction:
Page 2, Line 63: ‘There are also other survey reports depicting the use of other illicit drugs and NPS’ – According to the previous sentences could you show the illicit drug use and NPS prevalence of the cited study here?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.