Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender Variations in Access, Choice to use and Cleaning of Shared Latrines; Experiences from Kampala Slums, Uganda

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

RE: Re-submission of a manuscript titled- “Gender Variations in Access, Choice to use and Cleaning of Shared Latrines; Experiences from Kampala Slums, Uganda”

Please receive the above named manuscript by the following authors; Japheth Kwiringira, Peter Atekyereza, Charles Niwagaba and Isabel Guenther.

As the primary author, I am re-submitting the attached manuscript for your consideration and possible publication in the Journal of BMC-Public Health after a thorough review in line with your comments. The entire paper especially the abstract and methodology were overhauled along with other sections; introduction, methodology, recommendations and conclusions have all been rewritten for clarity and revisited with precision. As a result, we have been able to expunge repetitions, double meanings, typos, misplaced words, vague phrases and emphasised the substantive issues in each section of the paper.

We have made use of footnotes to clarify some issues that would otherwise distort the intended flow of the paper. We further state that this paper will not be published elsewhere while under your consideration.

As earlier mentioned, the paper is based on a qualitative research carried out in the slums of Kampala City Uganda. Kampala city slums have experienced a problem of unsustainable sanitation facilities that have not been gender responsive in access, choice and cleaning of the shared latrine facilities. This state of affairs prompted us to analyse the data we had collected in a bigger baseline study using a gender lens.

The study found that women are more disadvantaged than men in accessing the available facilities. Men were also found to have more variety of choice in easing themselves on account of their place of work, affordability and anatomy than women. Whereas both women and men preferred clean latrines to dirty ones, unpaid cleaning was seen as a female role by both genders.

Our paper further underscores the limitations of a statistical count of facilities without due consideration of their functionality by gender. Given that women have a critical role in the upbringing of children, our findings are important for both primary and maternal health care in the congested settings of Kampala slums and Africa as a whole.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Japheth Kwiringira
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