Reviewer's report

Title: Asthma prevalence knowledge and perceptions among secondary school pupils in rural and urban coastal districts, Tanzania

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Reviewer: Philippa Ellwood

Reviewer's report:

This is a very nice study which illustrates the differences between the prevalence of asthma in a rural and urban setting in Tanzania and also the perceptions of the participants about asthma. I have only some minor suggestions for language corrections. I did not see any discussion on the limitations of the study, did the authors not have any?

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract Background, third line. "The study also aimed to describe pupils perception towards asthma and assess knowledge etc"

Abstract, Methods, second line. "International study of asthma etc"

Abstract, Methods, 5th line. "wheeze" not "wheezes"

Abstract, Results, 1st line "past" not "last" 12 months.

Background, second line delete "in" to read "prevalence across countries. Delete 'the" to read "In Phase One" and capitilise "One"

Background, 3rd line insert "symptoms" to read "prevalence of asthma symptoms ranged"

Background, 11th line delete "the" to read "within famiies and communities"

Background, 16th line add "s" to difference and level to read "differences in levels of education"

Study population, 1st line "form" should be "from"

Study population, 5th line insert "the" to read "and the majority"

Study population, 6th line insert "the" to read "the Indian Ocean"

Study population, 10th line delete "a" to read "respiratory diseases or heart"

Questionnaire, 5th line should read "English version, a back translation into English was" etc

Data collection, 14th line delete "a" to read "presence of wheeze" and insert "pupils" to read "from all the pupils studied"
Data collection. "height and weights were measured" were these done using a standardised protocol? If so this should be referenced.

Results
Prevalence of self-reported asthma and wheeze, 4th line insert "The" to read "The majority of pupils"

Prevalence of self-reported asthma and wheeze, 6th line, insert "knew" to read "Ilala) knew from healthcare workers"

Prevalence of self-reported asthma and wheeze, 8th line insert spaces before brackets and delete spaces before %

Prevalence of self-reported asthma and wheeze, 9th line "delete "a" to read "had wheeze"

Peak expiratory flow rate (PEFR), 5th line change "is" to "was" to read "there was an increase"

Knowledge of the triggers for asthma attacks, 3rd line delete "s" from "Dusts" and "hairs"

Discussion, 4th line should read "reduce the economic costs associated"

Discussion, 6th line delete "s" from "districts"

Discussion, 26th line delete "the" to read "asthma in rural"

Discussion, 34th line insert "the" to read "In this study, the majority"

Discussion 39th line delete "of" to read "Our study also reports varying perceptions"

Conclusion, 1st line delete "s" to read "wheeze"

Conclusion, 2nd line should read "In both populations studied, pupils"

Table 2 "last" should be "past"

Table 4 "Dusts/kapok tree dusts" should be "Dust/kapok tree dust"

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests