Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions of HIV/STI prevention among young adults in Sweden who travel abroad. A qualitative study with focus group and individual interviews

Version: 2
Date: 16 May 2014

Reviewer: Jerry Okal

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory comments
The paper somewhat covers unfamiliar grounds in terms of its findings. With that said, the authors seems not to provide a critical analysis on the nexus between personal experience of prevention, attitudes towards prevention, prevention efforts wished for by young adults on one hand and the risks they are exposed to when travelling abroad. In my view this is a missing link which the authors can address if data is available. While personal experience of prevention, attitudes towards prevention, prevention efforts wished for by young adults seem to be the main topic I find lack of depth in the analysis of the results section. I expected to read more compelling findings on these topics and how they relate to one another. providing depth, in my opinion would enrich the paper and give the reader a clear understanding of the topic in question and the associated risks.

That said it is clear that the topic is an under studied area and the associated risks of young adults travelling abroad remains little understood especially in the epidemiology of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

Therefore, the author could do well to explain how personal experience of prevention, attitudes towards prevention, prevention efforts of young adults contribute to increased vulnerability and explain how other elements such as social support explain current risk taking behaviour. Of note, these issues are a key concern not only among young adults but also among the general population and is a rising concern potentially related to the globalization. This scenario brings with it monumental challenges in HIV prevention with a good number of new HIV infections likely taking place as a result travelling to foreign destinations.

Minor Comments:
General comment: Please ensure that the revised manuscript does not exceed the word limit.

Methods:
General comment: How was confidentiality of study participants maintained by the study team?

Page 4: The authors report that “…recruitment was done through universities, colleges, sports clubs...” but the steps taken to reach young people is unclear.
Explanation is only given of how young people were recruited in youth clinics. It would also be important to note the number of participants recruited from each of the recruitment sites. Another question is what was the rationale for targeting travelers who had made a foreign trip in the last twelve months. Is it not clear our criterion for sex work was self-identification as a sex worker”, my question therefore is, was there a cut off point for sex work say having sex with another man in the last 3, 6 or 12 months?

Page 6: What was the profile of those travelling abroad like? For example socioeconomic status, marital status etc. How did researchers verify that the participants indeed made a trip abroad in the last 12 months?

Results:

The presentation of the quotes is rather unconventional. The authors can look at previous published qualitative work and draw examples.

Conclusion: The author does a good job talking about how appropriate information can be channeled to young people but I think this can be taken a step further to include not only young people but their partners and immediate families as well.