Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge about AIDS and HIV Risk-related Sexual Behavior among Nigerian Naval Personnel

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The Editor,
Biomed Central (Public Health)

Dear Editor,

Revision of paper "Knowledge about AIDS and HIV risk-related Sexual Behavior among Nigerian Naval Personnel"

We have revised the above named paper as suggested by the two reviewers of the manuscript. The details of specific revisions made are provided below.

Reviewer One: Deborah Bain

Abstract
1. We have reported all decimal points of percentages consistently throughout the paper.
2. Additional data from the qualitative component of the study is now included in the abstract as suggested by the reviewer.
3. The mean knowledge score previously reported in the abstract as 7.4 has been changed to 7.1
4. All the editorial suggestions on the abstract have been made. The wording of the first sentence in the conclusion of the abstract now reads "many naval personnel report participating in high-risk sexual behaviors which may increase their risk of acquiring and spreading HIV" as suggested by the reviewer.

Background
1. All the editorial suggestions made on the background section of the paper have been corrected.
2. The last sentence in the background section has been changed to read "the objectives were to assess knowledge of HIV/AIDS and explore risky sexual behaviors in order to plan appropriate primary prevention interventions"

Methods
1. The fifth sentence in paragraph two of the methods section has been changed from "one of the homes of the FGD participant" to "the home of one FGD participant"

2. The distinction between "ratings" and "officers" has been provided in the text. Rating is a terminology used to describe all non-commissioned personnel in the Nigerian Navy.

Results
1. The phrase "one get" in sentence 14 of the results section has been changed to "one can get"
3. Reasons given for not using condoms during sexual contact with a female sex worker has been changed from 5 to 7

4. The comparison groups for the bivariate analysis are between those transferred locally and those sent abroad for training or peace keeping operation. This has been clarified in the text.

5. The acronym CSW has been changed to FSW to be consistent with the rest of the manuscript

6. The range number of transfers has been restated as 1-25 and an explanation has been provided that this number refers to only those who reported ever-being transferred.

Reviewer Two: WR Brieger
1. The report of the study on Nigerian military by the Futures Group has been carefully reviewed and used to revise several aspects of the manuscript. For example, the information of the staff strength of the Nigerian Navy (10,000) has been included in the methods section of the paper.

2. The methods section now begins with an opening statement that says that the study was a survey supplemented with qualitative methods as suggested by the reviewer

3. The profile of the focus group discussants and key informants has now been provided. The fact that discussants and key informants were selected by convenience is also now included in the methods section.

4. Separate sub-sections has been created for both the survey and qualitative components of the study

5. We do not have information on the profile of personnel who do not respond to the invitation to participate in the study and this information is now included in the methods section.

6. The role played by the first author in data collection has now been clarified to be consistent with information provided in the section on author’s contributions.

7. Associations between variables of participation in risky sexual practice and marital status, status of personnel, age, and length of military service have now been explored. A similar association has been explored between use of condoms with a female sex worker and each of the variables mentioned. The results have led to the creation of a new table 3.

8. The data on transfers has been clarified.

9. The discussion section has been revised. An upper case has now been used to distinguish this section from the results. In addition, a separate section has been created to discuss the implications of the results for planning appropriate interventions.

10. A consistent referencing style of numbering system is now used throughout the paper

11. The concluding statements of the paper has been revised to make it forceful

12. The additional reference of the study by the Policy Project is now included in the list of references cited in the paper.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr. Ademola Ajuwon