Author's response to reviews

Title: Systematic Review of Effectiveness of School-Based Sexual Health Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Authors:

Virginia A Paul-Ebhohimhen (amen_virginia@yahoo.co.uk)
Edwin R. van Teijlingen (van.teijlingen@abdn.ac.uk)
Amudha Poobalan (a.poobalan@abdn.ac.uk)

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

RE: MS: 1844005017128350 - Systematic Review of Effectiveness of School-Based Sexual Health Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa

Thank you for your feed back following peer-review of the above manuscript.

We now wish to submit the revised version in line with reviewers’ reports and requested formatting changes.

Outlined below are the changes that have been made to the initial manuscript.
1. Title and suggested running head have been changed to reflect more on our outcomes of interest- STI/HIV, and studies included in the review (controlled studies only)
2. Justification of the review in the introduction as requested, including highlighting points of differences from similar reviews.
3. Elaboration of the review process, including incorporating the flow chart for study selection (Figure I), Table I showing search strategy employed in three databases, table of excluded studies and reviews (Table II), and an Appendix (not for publishing) of the data extraction and quality assessment used for full text critical appraisal of studies.
4. Elaboration of the findings in results and discussion section of the paper
5. Correction of the geographical location of Tanzania, initially described as being in South Africa to Eastern Africa, and also of the number of studies.
6. Abstract now reads 12 articles (10 studies)
7. Referencing format has been modified to suit the BMC Public Health style.
8. Re-wording and essential language corrections made
9. Page numbering employed as requested by reviewer
10. Clarification of scope of review being to studies published between 1986-2006
11. the demographic data and description of included studies and participants have been retained as these make the objective of having a more robust review, while informing on the validity and generalisability of the findings of the review in informing future research and policy
12. ‘Adolescents’ has been included among the keywords
13. Recommendations have been more co-ordinated in the discussion and conclusion sections of the paper.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia Paul-Ebhohimhen, Edwin van Teijlingen & Amudha Poobalan