Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of Medical student's response to Voluntary Counseling and Testing services in Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania.

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2008

Reviewer: Taiwo lawoyin

Reviewer's report:

The authors have examined a very important aspect of AIDS prevention among young people. The work is also timely considering that the International AIDS conference has just ended in Mexico. There are important issues which have to be addressed.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

ABSTRACT SECTION
Risk behavior could be protective or otherwise. There is therefore a need to qualify the 'Risk behavior' by adding 'High risk'
Line 4 ..Who are engaged in risk behavior without perceiving themselves at risk..
Methodology:
line 1 typo error change .. to 'questionnaire'
Results
Line 3 did not know...
Conclusion 'Among students' delete health school/colleges
2003 figures used. Authors need to use more current data. quoted references 1 and 2 are too old for describing situation in the country with regards HIV/AIDS.
Line 6. Insert a Full stop after HIV. Start new sentence 'Approximately 32 million..'
3rd Paragraph, line 2 'The only hope..' is too restrictive as other preventive options are been increasingly recognized. Suggest restructuring the sentence. Lines 6-7 reads VCT is among the strategies ...' Rest of the sentence needs to be rephrased.
Para 4, Line 1. As at the end of 2003, 100,328 clients had been counseled. This number made up 0.7% of Tanzania's adult population.

METHODOLOGY
Study Area:
Paragraph 2, line 2. Why is KLWAKKUKI in upper case?
Study Population: Line 2 - At KLMC??.
Sampling Frame: Line 2 sentence needs to be restructured.
Inclusion & exclusion criterion included adults 18-25 years. (NACP, 2003) Insert correct referencing style here.

Sample Size:
What is the event under study?

RESULTS
Demographic characteristics:
Line 2- 'enrolled' to replace 'involved'.
What was the proportion of males to females in the study population? Why were there more males than females?

Risk assessment: major editing required in this area. lines 1-4. Insert 'ever' contracted STIs. Insert supporting statistics.
Page 8, para 3, line 2. The youngest age at 'sexual debut' when reported as 6 years; Had all the student ever had sex? There are no controls who have never had sex!
Pg 9, lines 1 & 2 need rephrasing.
line 3- insert 'reported having'......
The whole of paragraph 3 needs to be made clearer.
Para 4, line 6..replace 'high' with 'many'...
Para 5, line 3 - missing figures.
para 6, The assessment of risks taken is poorly reported by the authors.

DISCUSSION:
3rd paragraph. The authors comment that more male students were sexually experienced...... The difference could be explained by the fact that males were more likely to be explicit about their sexual experiences.

pg 15.
Discussion just about broached the study objectives.

REFERENCES
Some old references. How long ago was the paper submitted? Many references from the web.

TABLE
Far too many Tables. Table 1 uploaded inadequately making it difficult to follow.
Table 3 statistics difficult to understand
Table 7 crowded and poorly uploaded
Table 9. Attitude scores would have complemented the table

FIGURES
None of the figures seen have Titles.
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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. Thank you for the opportunity given me to assess the paper.