Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluations of Health professionals care students’ in response to Voluntary Counseling and Testing services in Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania.

Version: 3 Date: 17 December 2008

Reviewer: Zubairu Iliyasu

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed most of the issues raised in my first review. However, the manuscript needs to be improved further.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

1. TITLE

Apparently the authors revised the title to include other health professional students apart from medical students. However, the revised title doesn’t seem right. Could I suggest “Evaluation of uptake and attitude to Voluntary Counseling and Testing among Health Care Professional students in Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania”?

2. ABSTRACT

Background: Replace “including medical students” with “including health care professional students” to reflect the new title.

Methodology: Replace “A structured questionnaires” should be “A structured questionnaire”

Conclusion: Replace “need to be included in their training curriculum’s” with “need to be included in their training curricula”. Also put full stop at the end of the sentence

3. BACKGROUND

Replace “3 million adult” with “3 million adults” ditto “5 million adult’ with “5 million adults’”. Replace “ medical professionals” with “health care professionals”. Replace “professional health care students” with “health care professional students”.

4. METHODOLOGY

The authors said KIWAKKUKI is an abbreviation of the study institutions. The need to list out the institutions with KIWAKKUKI on first mention.
5. SAMPLING FRAME

Put full stop after KCM college.

“The rest (11/420) should be replaced with 2.6%(n=11).

“the questionnaire were able to be retrieved..” should be changed to “the questionnaires were retrieved from”. The number of questionnaires returned and response rate should be moved to the results section.

6. DATA COLLECTION

“the questionnaire was pretested before it administered” should change to “……it was administered”

“The investigator visited to each school” should change to “the investigator visited each school”.

Full stop is missing after classrooms. This should be followed by “The study objective was clearly explained to the participants”. Replace “participation to the study” with “participation in the study”.

7. ETHICAL ISSUES

Replace “Permission to conduct this study was asked from the provost” with “…..permission was obtained from the provost”. Replace “were told for not being eligible” with “students who were not selected were told the reason their ineligibility”

8. RESULTS

Correct to “Mean and standard deviation of 23.7±1.46” ditto 23.3±1.68

Replace with “there were 112(36.2%) males and 197(63.8%) females giving a sex ratio of 1:1.8.

Replace “Majorities of respondent…..” With “Majority of the respondents 154(49.8%) were within the 24-25 years age bracket.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

From “Knowledge of AIDS…..up to…..HIV test” should be moved to discussion section. “The female reported “ should be “Females reported”.

“However, females were also…..” Should be replaced with “In contrast, females were more likely to have one current….”. Replace “at first sexual debut has shown in table 1” with “The age at first sexual debut is shown in table 1”. Remove the sentence containing “Slightly difference” because there is really no difference.

Replace “The age group 22-23 years (35.0%) had…. With “In the age group 22-23 years…..
The statement “taken the risks of HIV” is not clear

10. AWARENESS OF VCT

The statement “did not differ between males and females; the different was not statistically significant” should be replaced with “there was no statistically significant difference between males and females”.

Replace “there were no statistical significant” with “there was no statistically significant differences”

11. FACTORS ASSOCIATED

Replace “I have had attended” “with “have had VCT”

Figure 1 is repeated. Delete one of them

12. DISCUSSION

Risk assessment

Replace mean age of starting sex was 11 years with “mean age at sexual debut was 11 years”.

Change “similar with” to “similar to”

Recast the paragraph to “Studies from other countries report even lower mean age at sexual initiation. For instance, workers in Zimbabwe and Jamaica reported a mean age of 9 years while in Kenya it was reported as 14 years. Elsewhere, in Indiana state, higher mean age of sexual debut of 16 and 17 years were reported for males and females respectively.

Once you have done this, there are also some questions for you to answer, including one that asks your advice on what the next step should be. Please bear in mind that it is the journal’s policy to publish all work that is coherent and scientifically sound, providing that it is not too trivial to deserve publication at all at this stage.

The authors need to make the aforementioned corrections satisfactorily before any decision can be made

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'