Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluations of uptake and attitude to Voluntary Counseling and Testing among health care professional's students' in Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania.

Version: 6 Date: 13 March 2009

Reviewer: Adamson Muula

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RE: Evaluations of uptake and attitude to voluntary counseling and testing among health care professional's students in Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the manuscript for second time. The manuscript has improved. The following however are some of the concerns that still remain:

1. Under: Sampling Frame, the authors report that 420 students were eligible to participate but questionnaire were completed by 309 students and 2.6% (11) did not return the questionnaires. I don't know if the authors have the number of actual students who were administered the questionnaire compared to just who were eligible. Sometimes this information is not available and I do not hold the researchers “at fault” if they do not have this information.

2. The authors have answered the question of marital status in the letters to the editor answering reviewers' concern. This information should also be in the manuscript. We can not clearly interpret sexual behaviors when we do not know who is married and who is not. This is especially so in higher learning institutions where the number of married students increases.

3. In the results, the authors report that “experienced sexual intercourse at an age of 9 years, 50% at the age of 12 years...” In fact it appears that we are talking about “by the age of “ and not “at the age of”

4. In the sub-section: Factors associated with having had VCT; the authors seem to report two contradictory statements i.e. “Generally, religion was not significantly associated with VCT uptake”. And then later in the same paragraph, “Uptake between Protestants and Muslims were statistically significantly related related”. More so, in this paragraph, the authors reported that: “More Catholic 39 (36.4%) reported having attended VCT services compared to Protestants 36 (33.6%), Muslim students 21 (19.6) and others 11 (10.3%).” In fact these numbers are not correct. What should have been reported was that , “Of the 107 study participants who reported having attended VCT, 39 (36.4%) were Catholic and so an and so forth.” On the other hand, this information may be less important than actually saying; of the x number of Catholics, x% reported having had VCT, x% of Protestants and so on. “ What the authors have done is to take the number of the people who reported VCT and then calculate the proportions of each religion. But of Catholics were the majority in the sample, they may be over-represented and yet not having higher proportion among themselves who
have tested.

5. The authors have referred to VCT as “testing and counseling”: I suggest the authors refer to VCT as: voluntary counseling and testing as they have done at some places of the same manuscript

6. There continues to be typographical and grammatical errors of import. An example is the second sentence of the Abstract which reads: VCT is also perceived to be an effective (there is a missing word here) in the reduction of risky (another missing word here) among young people who are sexually active. In the Background of the main text, the authors also state “…and sex who have sex with men.” There are several other places in the manuscript where similar errors have not been corrected.

**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:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests