Author's response to reviews

Title: Sexual Practices among Adolescents in Tanzania

Authors:

Method R Kazaura (mrkazaura@muhas.ac.tz)
Melkiory C Masatu (cmasatu@yahoo.com)

Version: 3 Date: 6 June 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS

REVIEWER (1): Kåre Moen

Dear Moen,

We again, thank you very much for your comments and all inputs to improve our present article. The following are point by point how we addressed your comments and suggestions.

1. We have connected the contents in the background to match with the rest of the article.
2. On page 4, we have re-written the sampling procedure to make it more understandable (Page 5, the first three paragraphs).
3. We quite agree that there are differences in some of the variables between our previous article and the present one. We would like, once again to make it clear that in the previous article a sample of ALL adolescents (in- and out-of school) were targeted. Since some of the out-of-school adolescents were married, for comparison purposes we decided to exclude them in this article. However, major differences especially in reporting multiple sexual partners, were outcome of improved data cleaning. Our data manager did not initially indicate that the number of sexual partners ranged from none to 7 (actually, 9 was a code for missing information, i.e. respondents refraining from reporting number of sexual partners). We think of sending an erratum to the Journal explaining this error.

4. We have reporting that 40.3% to be the proportion of adolescents reporting sexual practices. The correct information is that since some of the adolescents practiced more than one type (vaginal, anal, oral and masturbation); a combination of these practices gives 1109 types of practices among 885 sexually active adolescents. A better explanation appears in the last paragraph on page 6 and continues at the beginning of page 7 (third paragraph).

The discrepancies (and possible explanation) regarding multiple sexual partners between the two articles has been pointed out in the discussion section on top of page 10.

Thank you very much for taking your time to review this article.
Dear Faxelid,

Thank you very much for your constructive comments aimed at improving our article. Thank you very much. The following are point by point on how we addressed each of your comments and suggestions:

1. The confusion that arose regarding ‘22 not reporting’ has now been cleared. On page 7, the sentence starts with “Out of 885 sexually active adolescents…” It also corresponds perfectly with table 2.
2. We have inserted 16 (6.3%) as suggested (See, top of page 8).
3. In the last paragraph of the results section, we have clearly indicated the denominator for in-school adolescents who reported penetrative sex.
4. We have removed ‘Any penetrative sex’ and its figures in table 2.1.

Thank you very much for your assistance.