Author's response to reviews

Title: Sexual Practices among Unmarried Adolescents in Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Kåre Moen,

Thank you again for your comments aimed to improve our manuscript. We have addressed these comments as follows:

COMMENT 1

Initially, we were trying to avoid using ‘unmarried in-school’ adolescents in order to do away with the impression that in Tanzania there in-school adolescents who are married. We have now put it right including changing the title.

COMMENT 2

Since we no longer talk about ‘penetrative sex’ (as suggested by reviewer 2), this statement has been deleted

COMMENT 3

As described in Comment 1 above

COMMENT 4

It is true that exclusion of adolescents in forms 1 and 2 may be thought as a bias. This has been included in the discussion as one of the limitations during the design of the study.

COMMENT 5

Our aim is not to summarize findings of the previous article using the methodology section. If possible, audiences should get both papers and find similarities or differences between them. Caution is given in the discussion section that care should taken when making inference based on these findings for various reasons (as indicated).

COMMENT 6

There are different reasons for considering unmarried adolescents in this manuscript. First, the big proportion of our sample was in-school adolescents, who are certainly unmarried. It is a good idea to ‘match’ these adolescents with their counter-parts out-of-school adolescents who should also be unmarried. Second, the question of sexual behaviours especially among adolescents is underscored. Individuals who are unmarried may have great needs than married ones because the former are more likely to engage in riskier sexual behaviors (Forste R and Tanfer K, Sexual exclusivity among dating, cohabiting, and married women. J Marriage Fam, 1996; 58:33-47). However, this does not imply we should leave alone married adolescents, rather unmarried adolescents may need more attention. We thought it was less important to include all these explanations due to limited space.
COMMENT 7

Yes, these are correct figures and are all true.

COMMENT 8

We are working on the suggestion of sending an erratum for the published article.

COMMENT 9

The statement has been re-structured to make it more understandable.

COMMENT 10

In order to stick to the visible data, we have changed to ‘self-reported anal sex was about 8%’.

COMMENT 11

This comment is acknowledged and it has been addressed earlier (Comments 1, 5 and 6).