Reviewer's report

Title: Gender norms in transition: a qualitative study on community understanding of intimate partner violence in urban Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 28 January 2011

Reviewer: Angela Taft

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors

I am happy with the majority of your revisions and I think the article reads more clearly now, especially your results section. Much better title also.

Minor essential revisions

Your letter

P.7 Your study limitation section: your study has strengths worth acknowledgement too - your efforts at a diverse and representative sample, your coding and checking accounts but you should acknowledge that while you cannot generalise these results to all areas of Tanzania (or Africa) you feel they are in line with many other studies.

P.8 Your references to the new WHO report (thanks - I hadn't seen it).

You say 'there is evidence of effective strategies etc...This is not what they say (see Section 3.2 p. 36 onwards) but they call for more and better evidence of prevention etc. You need to amend this and then you can use it for your call for more research.

Small grammatical points - I think from your data (in English) that 'viewed as discreditable AND unfair' is what is meant - but up to you as you know Kiswahili.

Discussants 'who' not 'that' as they are people..p17

Manuscript p.6 Jewkes ET AL have

p.7 Second last sentence - dont you mean violence rather than 'dur to controlled male authority'.?

p.11 Top para 'muslim women toleratING'... middle para..community members WHO.

p.12 Top para.. 'prior mentioning OF IPV.

p.15. Discretionary revision Suggest 'Discussants WHO reacted emotionally ... were politely INVITED to leave .... and SUPPORTED to talk etc."

bottom sentences... used to promote study RIGOUR.... was tested by constant COMPARISON/CHECKING between etc..

p.21 Title Temporary or SHIFTING? tolerance?
p.24 Societal level ‘resolve family conflicts and (ADEQUATE OR INADEQUATE) provision etc
p.29 2nd para have also been associated WITH having witnessed
...not much elaborated IN the FGDs... point to the need FOR engaging..
bottom para accepted at the SAME TIME AS.. being trapped
good luck Angela Taft

**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 I have no competing interests