Author's response to reviews

Title: Sexual behaviour, Contraceptive Knowledge and Use among Female University Students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: a cross-sectional study

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Version: 3 Date: 2 February 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to editorial comments

MS: 9089803301162431: Sexual behaviour, Contraceptive Knowledge and Use among Female University Students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: a cross-sectional study

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Version: 1 Date: 18th December 2013

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the invitation to resubmit our manuscript entitled “Sexual behaviour, Contraceptive Knowledge and Use among Female University Students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: a cross-sectional study” by Magreat et al. We also appreciate for the comments provided BMC internal editorial review team which has given us an opportunity to further improve our manuscript. All the editorial suggestions have been adopted, and we hope the paper is now in acceptable format to allow further peer-review in BMC Women Health Journal. Please find our responses indicated in a red colour.

Section Editor's Comment:

The manuscript is poorly written and needs substantial revision and editing. The presentation of data must be revised e.g. "about 41" women had been pregnant. Pregnancy is an absolute condition, a woman is either pregnant or not, there is no "about". This is just one example of the presentation style which requires revision.

The manuscript has been revised and edited for topographic errors. Some errors and problems related to data presentation have also been addressed.

Review the terms which are used. "Women" rather than "females"; "contraception" rather than "contraceptives".

We understand the editorial concerns regarding the use of these terms. We have consistently used the term contraception instead of contraceptives as well as use of the term women
instead of female. However, the word female has been commonly used in previous studies, thus we have maintained the word female in the title of the manuscript.

The background section needs more details of figures and where studies were undertaken without extending the length significantly.

We have incorporated some details including figures from the previous studies to enhance better comparisons between studies with our present study.

Recruitment (page 5) is unclear. Not clear about "pre-testing" (validation) of the questionnaire.

We have revised this section. The recruitment procedure has been described in the method section. We have also described clearly how the questionnaire was pretested to enhance its validity.

The presentation of the results can be improved considerably. The discussion needs review particularly with regard to language.

We have revised the results section especially presentation of the results and language. We also revised some section of the discussion which required language corrections.

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