Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge and practice of prevention of vertical transmission of HIV among Nurse/midwives in Owerri, Imo State Nigeria

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Covering letter in Response to reviewers’ report.

The authors will like to retain the topic. The focus of the paper is on the nurse/ midwives knowledge and the way this knowledge influence their practice or the way they act.

The instrument has now been discussed in more detail under methodology on page 4. A self administered questionnaire that had four sections was used. Validity and reliability of the instrument has been added. We performed test -retest and same was analyzed using Cronbachs Alpha reliability test. The coefficient was 0.81.

The respondents had mean Score of 51.4% on knowledge but the cut off was 47% but majority scored over 50%.

The authors have tried to operationally define the terms knowledge and practice as used in the study in the background of the study on page 2. The sampling method has been explained in more details. The nurses were selected from Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Paediatric Units. They were all Midwives. The setting, sampling procedure, protection and right to refuse has been further explained under sampling on page 3 and Ethical consideration on page 4 respectively.

The method of selection of participants has been clarified on pages 3 and 4.

The section on theory and figure 1 has been dropped as suggested. All the figures have been dropped. Some of the data were integrated into some tables. The 5 Specific objectives were dropped, correction has been effected.

The Demographic variables have been adjusted on Table 1. Cross tabulations were done initially but some were dropped while others were discussed within the body of the work. The nurses were from both obstetrics and gynaecology as well as paediatric units. Their years of experience were not so high as majority 103(69.1%) had 1-5years experience and the mean experience was 5years as seen on table 1. The other items have been added to the table on Knowledge of HIV which is now Table 2. The items were reported in the body of the work initially.

The stem questions have been added to the table on practice now table 3. The observed omission has been corrected.

The researchers tried to find out if the nurses had any constraint.

Experience was in the area of managing women living with HIV. The mean score of those that answered yes was compared with those that answered no using student t test. Items on availability of resources were correlated with items on practice. Data on tables 6 and 9 were generated from the SPSS Computer Software using Pearson’s correlation Coefficient.

All the corrections have been effected in under the various headings. I will still welcome any further comments.