Author’s response to reviews

Title: Magnitude of sexual abuse among male high school students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Thank you very much for the comments. We have provided point-by-point response to the comments forwarded by the reviewers.

For Reviewer:  Gisela Priebe

Reviewer comment: Minor essential revisions

1. Comment: How many percent of male 18 year old attend senior secondary school...
Response: This is mentioned as a limitation on page 14, last paragraph before the conclusion. The generalizability of this study is limited to those who are attending school. Do not have data on those who are not attending.

2. Comment: Mention in the text one school (private) did not to participate and was replaced by another school using simple random sampling
Response: Mentioned in the text on page 6, paragraph 2, second sentence

3. Comment: Page 6-7 Questionnaire: Is the exact wording of the example questions given in the paper
Response: Yes, exact wording used in the text

4. Comment: Variables such as monthly household income was related to the outcome verifiable
Response: There is no any substantial evidence. However we expected that these variables may be associated with the outcome variable.

5. Comment: Please add in the text (page 10, paragraph 3) that hopelessness and decreased school performance were reported as consequence of the sexual abuse
Response: Added in the text on page 10 paragraph 3.

6. Comment: Page 13, paragraph 2: “nearly two-third of male sexual abuse were due to the involvement of pornography”
Response: This is edited (page 13, 14)
7. Comment: Replace living outside with parents with not living with both parents
Response: Replaced

For reviewer: Gonca Celik

Reviewer Comment: Major and minor

1. Comment: The socio-cultural values of Ethiopian people have not been explained clearly...
Response: We appreciate the comment but found it difficult to take much space on this while it was clearly explained on page 4, first paragraph and our study has used only a quantitative method. We don’t think that we should go to such detail.

2. Comment: About the work done by Gobena Daniel
Response: We could not find similar studies (large scale and quantitative) in Ethiopia. The ones we got were qualitative and focused on limited aspects and vulnerable groups such as male street children. From our search of the topic, Gobena Daniel is not the original source and we have included a study done by Getnet Tadele on male street children (page 12, first paragraph)

3. Comment: Is sleeping together usual life habit or due to economic difficulties? It must be stated
Response: this part is not included in the discussion section and do think there is a need. Note that family size ranged between 5-9 in the population studied.

4. Comment: Explain the sentence: when victims of completed rape were asked reasons for the act, majority (15 of the 28), responded that it was because they slept together. Sleeping together cannot be a reason for rape but it can be a risk factor for adolescent period which increase sexual impulse.
Response: Condition is used instead of reasons. Also corrected in the title of figure 1.

5. Comment: How do they obtain an information about hopelessness or sleep together
Response: This is based on their response to the questions (self report).

Minor:

6. Comment: Abstract: replace “this” with This
Response: Edited. Abstract sentence under subheading results

7. Comment: Check references according to the journal style and 13th reference does not include the name of the research and there is spelling error.
Response: references and checked and corrected. Reference # 13 retained and corrected (title included) and # 16 deleted (same).