Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 9 November 2012

Reviewer: gonca celik

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions;
I would like for the authors to discuss more detailed information about possible underlying reasons of this issue. For example, factors that may influence victimization/revictimization, keeping secret/disclosure, possible individual factors such as risk-taking behaviors that may associated with mental health problems or prior traumatic experiences, and factors related families and/or sociocultural context.

While I agree that clearly these social ties often lead to keep secret or recantation of their allegations it is also important to more deeply acknowledge the pro-social aspects of these.

The authors should provide more detailed discussion about their finding of lower prevalence of completed rape compared to other studies from different countries. I agree with the explanation of authors that it could be due to cultural difference, negative social responses towards men having sex with men and also stigmatization. On the other hand, the present discussion is very limited to clear understanding by many readers who may have not any knowledge about cultural and family structures, types of anticipated stigmatization, and what are feared negative consequences within these cultural context in this country. In other words, the sociocultural values of Ethiopian people should be described in more detailed than first version of paper.

Discussion about findings of the differences among participants who lived with a single/biological parent, with others or alone. The factors related to placement of students were asked, or not. If this data is not available for this concern now, the possible causes of that should be explained. For example; familial conflicts, abusive parental attitudes, individual characteristics such as personality or habits that all of these and also many other factors may associated with both victimization rate and current placement of students.

Minor essential revisions:
The term of perpetuator may be changed to perpetrator
The authors should care about spelling errors, especially in part of abstract.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'