Author's response to reviews

Title: Sexual behaviors and their correlates among young people in Mauritius: a cross-sectional study

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The Editor
BMC International Health and Human Rights

Re: MS: 1760568572138689 - Sexual behaviors and their correlates among young people in Mauritius: a cross-sectional study"

Dear Editor,

We are delighted to hear that our manuscript can be, in principle, accepted for publication in BMC International Health and Human Rights. We have revised our manuscript according to the comments made by the referee as below (Referee’s comments are in bold font, quotations from the manuscript are in italic font with underline for information added or changed, and our answers are in normal font).

The manuscript has been formatted to conform to the journal style.

We hope to hear your favorable response,

Yours sincerely,

Yumiko H Nishimura
Corresponding author
Reviewer: Dr Richard A Jenkins

A few points still need further resolution. Contemporary trends in HIV spread in Mauritius have centered on injecting drug users and the rather hyperbolic rhetoric on page 15 (2nd full para.) regarding risk among seems unwarranted.

Answer:
We changed the pointed paragraph on page 15 as follows; “Nevertheless, these findings do not leave room for complacency. Among sexually experienced Mauritian youths, 50.6% of male and 71.2% of female respondents did not use condoms at the last sexual encounter with a noncommercial partner. Although HIV infection risks may not be very high for young people as a whole, there certainly exist a group of youth who have unprotected sex and are vulnerable to HIV infection. Therefore, the HIV program for youth in Mauritius should aim to maintain the low prevalence of sexually active youth and to promote safe sexual behavior among those who are sexually active.”

We also added following description in the second last paragraph of Discussion (p20); “Finally, it is needless to say that National AIDS Control program of Mauritius should swiftly act on HIV prevention for injecting drug users given the contemporary trends of HIV spread in this group. At the same time, with regard to young people, our findings suggest that early and focused programs are needed.”

The discussion on pornography is unfocused, particularly given the lack of information about actual exposure to pornography and the kind of content typically seen by youth in Mauritius.

Answer:
Our study assessed exposure to pornography and we made efforts to collect information on content of the pornographic films available for Mauritian youth. Following information were added in discussion of the pornographic films (p19); “The effect of watching pornographic films should also be cautiously assessed because the bivariate analysis, but not logistic regression, showed this to be significantly associated with sexual experiences in young men. In fact, 70.6% of men, as compared to 12.9% of women, have reported ever having watched pornographic films. These films, most of which are from overseas, include unprotected sexual behaviors.”

Some explanation needs to be given regarding the race/ethnicity of the religious groups so that readers can better understand who these categories represent.

Answer:
We added description on race/ethnicity in section of Instrument development under Methods (p9); “The sociodemographic variables included sex, age, religion, educational background, and work experience. Religion represents racial/ethnic background of the participants. Usually, Hindus represent people whose ancestors came from India, Muslims, from India and the Middle East, and Christians, from Africa, Europe, and China.”