Reviewer's report

Title: Sexual behaviours and determinant factors among students at Bahir Dar University. A cross sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 24 January 2014

Reviewer: Kasiye Gemechu

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Abstract -
1. The introduction section does not clearly describe the actual gap of the research question. Relevant sentences should be constructed and it needs to be well organized and rephrased.

Conclusion-
2. It is repeating information of the results. The conclusion is not clear. It needs to be well developed. Title should be “conclusion and recommendation” since you have recommendation in the paragraph.

Background -
3. The background part should clearly show the gap, country strategies, activities and policies. It is not well written.

Methods –
Study variables –
4. The study variables are not clearly defined. What predictor variables were selected and how they were selected should be clearly stated.
5. You need to operationalize word or phrases like unprotected sex vs protected sex,...........??
6. Inclusion and exclusion criteria, study population and source populations........are missing?
7. Adhere to the format of reproductive health journal.

Sample size and sampling technique-
8. Why you take proportion of 0.5 inspite of available proportion from other studies in Ethiopia.

Data collection-
9. How quality of data maintained?

Data analysis-
10. What variables were considered for the logistic regression analysis and how were they selected?
Results-

11. Paragraph one “The overall prevalence of ever had sexual practice was 297(36.4%) (Table1). Of these, 42% were males and 25% were females” what about 33% who are neither males of females? The sum of males and females percentage should be 100.

12. Paragraph four: “Sexual intercourse for the exchange of money was detected in 4% of the sexually active respondent (8% among females and 3% among males)” how percentage of males and females are calculated?

Determinant factors of sexual behaviours-

13. Paragraph one: “Male respondents were more than two times to ever had sexual intercourse as compared to females (OR=2.17, CI = 3.00 -157) (Table 3). Those who are 20- 24 years old (OR=0.4,CI=0.28-6.4) were 0.4 times to ever had sex as compared to less than 20 years old participant students (OR=0.73,CI=0.16-3.3)” shouldn’t use crude odd ratios to compare results. So remove these sentences and crude odd ratios you used elsewhere.

14. Paragraph one: “However, on multivariate analysis, marital status and level of education difference had significant association with ever had sex (P<0.05).” you explained that marital status has significance association, so who are more likely to had sex? Is there deviance from what is natural?

15. Paragraph one: “Second year students were more likely to ever had sex as compared to 1st students (AOR=0.9, CI=0.4-1.9). Furthermore, third year students were 1.5 times to ever had sex compared to fresh man (AOR=1.5, CI=0.7-3.3) (Table 5). In addition sex, age and level of education difference had showed significant association with history of watching porn videos (P<0.05).” these have no association! It needs correction!!

16. Paragraph one: “Moreover, Year II respondents were almost 2 times to watch pornographic material than fresh students (OR=1.8, CI=0.9-3.7). In addition, Year III (AOR=1.3, CI=0.6-2.6), and year V (AOR=1.3, CI=0.6-3.0) students were 1.3 times to watch porno video than fresh students” these have no association! It needs correction!!

17. Paragraph two: “Students who had watch porn videos were 0.5 times to ever had sex as compared to non users (AOR=0.5, CI=0.35- 0.8).” but your AOR shows the reverse.

18. Paragraph two: “Drinking alcohol regularly (AOR=0.5, CI=0.32-0.86) was a risk factor for ever having had sexual intercourse. It was also true that more number of frequently khat chewers ever had sex than non users (AOR =0.5, CI=0.32 - 0.86)” you are talking the reverse to what your AOR shows!

19. Paragraph three: “In addition, sex, religion and ethnicity difference have not been significantly associated with ever had multiple sexual partners (P>0.05)” vs
“Sex difference has been significantly associated with ever had sex for the exchange of money. That is female respondents almost 3.7 times to practice sexual intercourse for the exchange money as compared to male respondents (AOR=3.7, CI= 1.04 – 13.2) (Table 5).” These two ideas are contradicting each other. If females are ever had sex for money it is mandatory that they will have multiple partners unless they have regular customer. And how could happen?

Discussion –

20. Paragraph one: “With regard to sex in this study, males were found to be 2.1 times more likely to have sexual experience compared to female students” you cannot use crude odd ratios to compare results.

21. Generally rewrite your discussion focusing on your major findings.

22. What are limitations and strengths of your study?

Tables-

23. On table3, 4 and 5, you didn’t show adjusted odd ratios? Remove p-values it is enough if you show adjusted odds ratios. Use key to show association in tables. Make your tables attractive as much as possible.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Title-

1. Word determinant used for cause effect relationship, but I don’t think you can do that with cross sectional study.

2. Objective should be written separately.

Method –

3. Summarize methods so that you can include sampling technique.

4. Analysis part in method should be clearly written.

Result-

5. “Of the 817 participants, 36.4% were sexually experienced.” rewrite.

6. The result part should focus on your major findings.

Background -

7. I prefer if the title be “Introduction”

8. Paragraph two lack coherence

Methods-

9. Study design, period and area: The following points needs to be incorporated. Number of health facilities in the university: if they are engaged in YFS services or not, whether there are trained health workers related to this issue, if there are clubs who begin to sensitize adolescents, the overall situation about YFS should be described in detail.

10. Sample size and sampling technique: “A total of 817 students were participated using single population proportion formula based on the following
assumptions” is not clear, rewrite this sentence. “All the seven colleges of the university were considered from each four campuses.” please rewrite it. Why proportionality is needed inspite of simple random sampling methods?

Results-
Sociodemographic characteristics-
11. Rephrase the first statement under the socio-demographic variables. “A total of 817 regular students, 545 male (66.7%) with the mean age of 21 years old were participated in the study.”

Sexual practice –
12. The same paragraph Rewrite “Among those who ever had sex, 174 (58.6%) had their first sex sexual intercourse during their secondary school.” It is not clear.

13. Paragraph one: both mean and median measure central tendency, you may use one of the two.

14. Paragraph two: “True sexual desire was the leading reason among males while long term relationship was the leading reason among females.” Is not complete. The reason for what?

15. Paragraph three: “Condom reduces sexual pleasure was the leading reason among males while failed to love was the leading reason among females for not using condom during sexual intercourse” has error in grammar.

16. Paragraph four: “The peak prevalence (77.2%) was found in males” rewrite this sentence.

17. Paragraph four: “Ever had sex with commercial sex workers has been reported by 7.4%” make it complete sentence. ………………..reported by 7.4% male, female or respondents?

Determinant factors of sexual behaviours-
18. Paragraph one: “Male respondents were almost 0.2 times to ever had watch porno video compared to female respondents.” Where is AOR?

19. Paragraph three: “Similarly ethnic group difference was also showed statistical significant association with history of attending night club with a P.value of 0.003” where is AOR?

20. Paragraph three: “Porn video viewers were 2.9 times more likely to had multiple sexual partners than other wise (AOR=2.86, CI=1.2-6.9).” and “Having multiple sexual partners was also more than 2.5 times among khat chewers compared to non users (AOR=3.5, CI=1.0-11.8).” rewrite these sentences, they are not clear.

Reference –
21. Some references don’t exist in your manuscript. Check your reference again
and adhere to style.

Table-
22. Table 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 rewrite the title.
23. Put your tables in ascending order in text.
24. Mention your sample size (n)/denominator for all variables in tables.

Discretionary Revisions:
Results -
Paragraph five: “Engaging in sexual intercourse after watching porn videos, drinking alcohol and, chewing khat were reported in 73(24.6%), 102(34.3%) and 51(17.2%) of those students who ever had sexual intercourse.” Add “respectively” at right place.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.