Reviewer’s report

Title: Parent-child communication about sexual and reproductive health in rural Tanzania: Implications for young people’s sexual health interventions

Version: 1 Date: 13 December 2009

Reviewer: Jane Ferguson

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. There is substantive relevant literature on parent-adolescent communication, not uniquely on sexual and reproductive health, which is not referred to (e.g. Developing methods to study parent-child relationships in rural sub-Saharan Africa: an exploratory project in Mwanza, northern Tanzania, Kija Nyalali, Pieter Riemes, Kim Miller’s work on Family Matters programme in Nyanza province, Kenya; WHO Helping Parents in developing countries improve adolescent health)

2. Clarify and indicate reasons for 'lack of direct parent-child communication about sex ….lack of parent-child closeness, shame, fear,' (page 37) The data for this finding is not manifest

3. Clarify the contribution of data from participant observation to the overall findings. Data from in depth interviews seems to predominate - there may be good (methodological) reasons for this worth highlighting.

4. Develop further the perspectives of young people regarding the communication about sex with their parents. The section currently addressing this (child satisfaction page 27) may be 'mis'titled as there is limited data and discussion about 'satisfaction' or young persons perspectives of the utility of communication to them.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Check references - in several cases, it appeared that the wrong references were being referred to (examples in the Discussion and conclusion section)

2. Clarify components of ‘SRH’ used as an abbreviation throughout, but in reference to parental communication with their children could include many aspects: pubertal development, menstruation; wet dreams; masturbation; sexual attraction; sexual behaviours; consequences of sexual behaviours including pregnancy; STI; HIV/AIDS; protecting against consequences etc. (some of which are discussed, but not all)

4. Develop further the perspectives of young people regarding the
communication about sex with their parents. The section currently addressing this (child satisfaction page 27) may be 'mis'titled as there is limited data and discussion about 'satisfaction' or young persons perspectives of the utility of communication to them.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**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'