Reviewer’s report

Title: A review of studies of parent-child communication about sexuality and HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Version: 2 Date: 6 August 2011

Reviewer: Amon Exavery

Reviewer’s report:

Generally, this is a very important, well-defined and structured research question given the global attention on young people’s sexual and reproductive health issues, especially in the HIV/AIDS era. A few issues however need to be looked at as authors revise their work in order to strengthen the paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors should describe – in the Methods or Analysis section – how they analyzed the literature. For example, they should state how they analyzed the quantitative data within the reviewed articles and consequently present results/findings in figures, graphs, tables or any other chosen form.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 11, paragraph starting with “Gender differences were noted …”

“… in Nigeria and Ghana, it was found that significantly higher proportions of female students reported family communication about sexuality than …”

and page 14 under Sexuality communication preferences:

“…while in the other two sites, a greater proportion of males preferred …”

The use of the terms greater proportion or higher proportions is arbitrary. It would be more informative if the actual proportion is made specific.

Discretionary Revisions

1. It would be more beneficial to readers if very long sentences were shortened, broken into shorter ones or broken down into lists where necessary. An example of such sentences is pasted below:

“One comparative study of parent-child communication in the United States and Kenya found that in both countries, the odds of communication about HIV/AIDS taking place were associated with parental perceptions that their child was ready to learn about sexuality, whether or not they had received information to educate their child about sex, and if they had greater sexual communication responsiveness (defined as the skill, comfort & confidence to communicate about
sexuality) (28)."

2. The authors may consider restructuring their abstract into sections such as background, methods, results and recommendations.

**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