Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of antiretroviral adherence among HIV positive children and teenagers in rural Tanzania: A mixed methods study

Version: 1 Date: 8 October 2014

Reviewer: Robinson Dr Ocharo

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The question is very clear that the study aimed at establishing the adherence levels and find the determinants, facilitators and barriers of ART adherence among children and teenagers in rural Tanzania. However this can be strengthened by giving a strong justification. The authors have claimed that there is less information of children and adolescents’ adherence. I believe this is the knowledge gap they study was addressing. This claim can be strengthened by the authors giving justification of why information on children and adolescents’ adherence is necessary.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The Methods are appropriate and well defined.

3. Are the data sound?
The data are sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
The will depend on the publication. In my view I find the order of presentation lacking in coherence: The paper starts with findings (that is after the introduction) followed with discussion and then methods. Logically methods should come before findings. The others concern I have is the data that is presented in tables and graphs that is at the end (after the references. I suggest that data in tables and graphs be part of the section on findings.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The discussion can be strengthened by;
a) Interrogating the study finding use either theory or empirical findings on the same subject.
b) Bringing out the authors’ voice/thesis on the subject matter.
Instead the authors only cited other studies without any interrogation.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
The paper has valuable information and if strengthen is acceptable. Apart from the suggestions I have given above I find the paper with grammatical errors that need to be corrected. See the attached copy of the paper with my suggested corrections.

When you have completed your report, please upload it using the online form, accessible using the 'Continue' button below.