Reviewer's report

Title: Fertility desire and associated factors among PLHIV attending ART clinic in Fitche Hospital, North Shoa Zone, Oromiya, Ethiopia, 2013.

Version: 6 Date: 7 June 2014

Reviewer: Shiva Raj Mishra

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Reviewer comments for,
FERTILITY DESIRE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV ATTENDING ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY CLINIC IN FITCHE HOSPITAL, NORTH SHOA ZONE, OROMIYA, ETHIOPIA, 2013

Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract
The abstract is terribly long. There is too many information in the methods section in the abstract. Authors are advised to reduce the content following the instruction for authors. The author’s statement that the fertility desire among PLHIV in Ethiopia is largely unknown doesn’t hold to be true. There are studies such as,

Fertility desires predictors among people living with HIV/AIDS at art care centers of two teaching hospitals in Addis Ababa by Negash S1, Yusuf L, Tefera M.

Fertility intentions among HIV positive women aged 18–49 years in Addis Ababa Ethiopia: a cross sectional study by Hussen Mekonnen Asfaw* and Fikre Enquselassie Gashe

In the method of abstract again, please indicate which you referred for sample frame generation "..........ART and Pre-ART registration book/HMIS data." It should be clear which one you refereed, is it ART and Pre-ART registration book or HMIS data? Are both the same?

A complete CI (Upper and Lower CI) should be provided in abstract for aOR.

Title
The title can be changed. I think "Fertility desire and associated factors among people living with HIV attending a antiretroviral therapy clinic in Ethiopia" might be a better title for this paper.

Background
The 'introduction' can be changed to 'Background' in the heading. Current presentation of objectives separately in bullet points is somewhat awkward.
Please write the objectives of the paper in paragraph adjoining background.

Background information, paragraph 2nd, a clear statement on fertility desire is necessary. As the research is focused on fertility desire, the authors should not hesitate to present detailed description of fertility desire.

Authors should have given concrete references to this sentences ".....Thus, unprotected sex among PLHIV, in order to conceive, carries the risk of transmitting HIV to sexual partners and subsequently to children during birth or breast feeding."

Authors already stated the background of HIV, and its epidemiology in the beginning of paper. However they were again reverting to description of HIV in the last four lines starting with "New HIV infections overall have declined by more than 20% since 2001 and, in 25 low and middle…" The crux of whole paragraph lies in the last three lines "Despite these concerns, studies show that some PLHIV still wish to have children for a range of reasons (4, 20). Most couples living with HIV and AIDS are of child bearing age and face difficult choices concerning their sexuality and child bearing (18)."

"HIV positive PLHIV" cannot this be PLHIV?

Methods
There are too many subheadings in Methods. Please refer to the published articles in the journals so that you would have better idea for organizing the content. Try to avoid listing of sentences, rather present sentences in paragraphs. The "Study area and period", a subheading in methods, can be written better as "Study setting". A clear description of study area should have been given. Given facts and figures in methods are not clear; this might be because of irregularity in grammar structures in sentences.

Sample size determination, the formula inserted is not clearly visible. I think the authors must have inserted images (jpeg, or png.). Please create the formula using word processor.

It is not clear, if authors took consent from study participants or the hospital staffs or both. What they did for obtaining the consent? This should be presented.

Clear description of why they selected four key informants from mothers supporting groups and six from peer educators should be explained. Peer educators will be much knowledgeable than participants from mothers groups. The responses will differ. Will not it affect the analysis of your qualitative findings?

Training given to data collector " Data collectors were trained for one day is mentioned in both the "Data Collection Procedures" and "Data Quality Management" This should not be repeated.

If the questionnaire was back translated to English, why researchers themselves not checked the consistency of questionnaires?
Is she (Bsc. Nurse) part of your research team? Allowing person not related to your research can breach the confidentiality and privacy in your research. This sentence can be omitted.

A definitive "Defining variables or definition of variables section" is missing. The authors must have given definition of variables. Authors should not forget including definition of fertility desire in this section. And how did they measure it should be mentioned.

The reference authors cited for Bloom's Criteria (ref 23), is not achievable in web. Authors should be able to justify why they selected this criteria amidst of others. Authors should refereee other researches that have used the same method.

Researchers said they "triangulated" the qualitative data with quantitative one. But why they felt triangulation was necessary should have been given. The possible reason could have been "to add a depth of information on fertility desires that could not be captured by quantitative methods alone"

Result

Please remove the colors from the Tables. Please place the tables at the end of the paper in revised submission. Reduce the content of the result to half.

Table 1, 'Sex with whom' has n=234, and 'Have sexual partner n=340. Since 234 had sex in last six months, how could "have sexual partner" be 203. Please check the consistency of data.

If everything can be read from the tables, the detailed description of study findings in result section will not be necessary. It is repetitive and makes your paper lengthier. Authors needs use worlds and spaces economically.

As the authors have used superior level of analysis that is the multivariate level of analysis. The description of univariate level of analysis should be briefed as far as possible.

Please include the description of findings from multiple logistic regressions in short. The authors have moved directly to discussion without presenting the findings from multivariate logistic model.

The authors presented a single verbatim in the whole result section. There are some other verbatim in the discussion. I advise authors to present the verbatim in the results alone. Use your writing skills to present them in a better way. The language in the verbatim has numerous errors.

Authors has provided description of respondent such as 45 yrs/ Male, Married 12th grade completed. But he/she has not given the description in all. This should be consistently given.

Discussion
First four paragraphs in discussion section should be rewritten. Authors have come up with very interesting findings but the level of presentation needs to be improved significantly. The very first sentence in the discussion is not clearly understandable. Since they have compared findings to general population "……age group in the general population", reference to this must be provided.

The second, third and fourth sentence presents the prevalence of fertility desire in different population. These should be presented in same paragraph.

The authors compared the reasons for having fertility desires with similar studies before. They have cited five studies conducted before. But they did not explain what was reported earlier as the reasons for having fertility desires.

Second sentence, Discussion section, Using 'etc.' is poor a practice in research. Authors need to clearly present what "et cetera" mean?

Page 15, second paragraph, here authors present why HIV disclosure increases the likelihood fertility desire. But the sentence after the same paragraph details about social support and internalized stigma. Is that to be presented?

Page 15, authors used 'discordant' in verbatim presenting 24 years female discussant. Word as such discordant is very technical and not to be used by your study participants. Exact narration of verbatim should be presented.

The last sentence page 15, should go to study techniques.

A clear description of implication of study findings should be presented in the discussion section. The recommendation at last can be presented as study implications.

Description of strengths and limitations of research should be provided along.

Minor Essential Revisions

List of acronyms used should be placed at end of the paper.

Label should be provided for figure (pie chart) as well.

CI should be provide for OR and AoR in abstract section as well.

Discretionary Revisions

Refer to the articles published before in fertility desire among PLHIV. Please try to improve the level of presentation of findings. Reduce the volume of content in your paper below <5000. Please check the Key Words presented in the Abstract section belong to the MeSH subject heading.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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