Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Supporting adolescent girls to stay in school, reduce child marriage and reduce entry into sex work as HIV risk prevention in north Karnataka, India: Protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editors,

Re: Changes required for MS: 1910843617161122 “Supporting adolescent girls to stay in school, reduce child marriage and reduce entry into sex work as HIV risk prevention in north Karnataka, India: Protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial”.

I am writing in response to your letter dated 26th February 2015. As per your requests:

1. **Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation.** I have sent copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for the study to the email address you supplied. Please note that the intervention was initially called ‘Sabala’ but we changed the name of the intervention to ‘Samata’ in March 2014 to avoid confusion with a Government of Karnataka education programme called ‘Sabala’. Ethics and funding documents which preceded March 2014 refer to ‘Sabala’ and documents after that date to ‘Samata’. To clarify, these documents refer to the same study.

2. **Funding.** The study is externally funded by DFID, the World Bank and The Government of Karnataka; DFID and the World Bank are major funding bodies. The Samata Project is part of the STRIVE research consortium funded by UK DFID, which was competitively bid for and underwent external peer-reviewed. However, this bid described the overarching research agenda, the broad research questions, and the partnerships which included Karnataka Health Promotion Trust, but the bid did not include the Samata study protocol. The World Bank reviewed the proposal before granting funding but not the finalised study protocol. In sum, the study is funded by two major funding bodies, but the finalised study protocol has not undergone peer-review by either funding body.

3. **Study status.** Our study is ongoing. The baseline data collection completed in December 2014. Data entry is underway and analysis of baseline data will commence in April 2015. Endline data collection will begin in March 2016 and finish in June 2017.

4. **Related Articles.** I can confirm that there no publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal.

5. **The Trial Registration Number and the date of registration** are now supplied at the end of the abstract.

6. We have uploaded a revised MS PDF without the additional files (consent forms).

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Tara Beattie