Reviewer’s report

Title: A qualitative study of Discourses on Heterosexual Anal Sexual practice among key, and general populations in Tanzania: Implications for HIV prevention

Version: 2 Date: 17 December 2014

Reviewer: Paul J. Fleminga

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. The manuscript tackles an important and infrequently discussed topic for HIV prevention. Overall, I thought the manuscript was well-written and clear but I have a few recommendations for improvement:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

(1) The authors need to be more clear about who and how often each of the discourses came up in their FGDs and IDIs. Specific numbers are not necessary, but the reader needs to know if it was just one individual or an entire group that seemed to adopt this discourse. For example, did all women say that HAS was more ‘profitable’ than vaginal sex? Or just those who engaged in transactional sex? This will help flesh out which discourses are part of which populations which is a key finding for your study.

(2) The authors need to describe how the IDIs were selected from the FGDs. Were they randomly selected?

Minor Essential Revisions:

(1) On p. 5, please state how many focus groups were conducted

(2) The authors need to provide epidemiological data for why they chose the 'key populations' that they chose: "women working in food and recreational facilities (FRFs); female sex workers (FSWs) working in brothels and streets; male truck drivers; and fishermen working on Lake Victoria"

Discretionary Revisions:

(1) I would suggest adding a table with demographic characteristics of the participants (and giving us an idea of the breakdown by group)

(2) The results are mostly well-organized and clear. However, the entire Results section is written as a paragraph of text with a supporting quote at the end. This type of use of quotes (as almost a citation for the previous statement) is not the best use of quotes. The reliance on quotes in this way results in the focus of an individual’s account rather than giving the reader more detail about the concept in relation to all the data. The quotes should be introduced and wrapped-up and be integrated into the text. Please see the article: Sandelowski, M. (1994). "The Use of Quotes in Qualitative Research." Research in Nursing and Health. 17, 479-482.
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.