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: 19 December 2014

Reviewer: Naheed Ahmed

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Overall, the paper has some interesting findings, but could be strengthened by:

1. Adding information to the literature review on HAS, key populations in TZ, and HIV transmission through HAS.

2. Clarifying why participants were categorized as either general or key populations, as some quotes from general populations seemed a better fit in key populations.

3. Drafting a separate section on HAS and sexual assault, since a few respondents reporting using HAS during sexual assaults. Include commentary from female participants on this issue, if present in your data. Provide contextual information on sexual assault in TZ.

Some other specific suggestions:

Line 67: Clarify which populations you're referring to.

Lines 90-96: Include references in this section to support your argument about the need for understanding discourses around sexual practices and how there are gaps in the literature on this topic.

Line 119: Describe your rationale for dividing groups into key populations and general population. Use references to support your categorization of these groups.

Line 121: How were FGD participants selected to participate in IDIs?

Line 213, 222, 232: Why do some participants have an exact age and others an age range?

Line 261: How do participants define “Westerners”?

Line 306: Did all of the young females and fishermen interview make this statement? If not, use qualifying words, such as “Some young female and fishermen said…”

Lines 337-347: This is a graphic account of sexual assault and needs to be better
articulated, so that the readers understand what’s going on in this section. Also, provide context for the relationship described in terms of money exchanged and the man’s expectations. Also, did other participants make similar remarks or is this the only one? If others made similar comments about using HAS during sexual assaults, I would suggest drafting a separate section on HAS and sexual assault.

Line 349: Define and clarify the position of women working at FRFs. From the quotes it sounds as though some engage in sex work – please explain their reasons (e.g. is it expected of them by supervisors, supplement the wages they earn, pressure from customers, etc.).

Line 357: A woman from the general population seems to be alluding to engaging in sex work. If that’s the case, please explain (earlier) your categorization of general and key populations. Or if there’s another relationship dynamic going on, please explain it (e.g. women are in committed relationships but receive financial support from their partners).

Line 372: Is it possible that some women may prefer HAS as a way to prevent pregnancy?

Line 375: Ok, it seems other respondents said they use HAS during sexual assaults here. Please add a separate section in your results discussing this in greater detail and providing more background data. It would also be good to include female perspectives (if present in your data) on HAS and sexual assault.

Line 554: In the results section, include information on what types of health education individuals received.

Line 579: Explain how an understanding of different discourses around HAS can be used to inform HIV prevention initiatives for the general population and key populations.

Figure: I am not a native speaker, but have studied Swahili and my understanding of "kufira" is that it means "to fuck". Is the translation in the figure correct?

Minor Essential Revisions

Noticed grammatical mistakes - please do a thorough copy edit.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I do not have any competing interests in relation to this paper.