Reviewer’s report

Title: DOUCHING PRACTICES AMONG WOMEN IN THE BOLGATANGA MUNICIPALITY OF THE UPPER EAST REGION OF GHANA

Version: 2  Date: 19 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Margaret P. Kasaro

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for consideration of comments and the review on the manuscript so far. I have a few comments some maybe discretionary others maybe necessary to include. You may also need to have that English review to ensure that small mistakes which may compromised the language of the paper are corrected.

Abstract:

I believe the objective of the study is to provide data in the area of vaginal hygiene practices in Bolgatanga Municipality(GHANA) as there is currently not much research done in this subject area. The rationale is that health behaviors are different and are influenced by culture and geography and therefore the need to do this research in this location. This must be well crafted in your abstract and introduction so that it is clear why this particular research has been done. If you agree, this is my suggested wording for the abstract:

Vaginal douching is a common practice among women all over the world. Women douche for various reasons, despite evidence indicating the harmful health effects of the practice. There is lack of data on the practice in Ghana but health behaviors like vaginal douching may be influenced by differences in culture and geography. Therefore this study sought to assess prevalence and predictors of vaginal douching practices among women of the Bolgatanga municipality of Ghana.

For the sentence in the methods there is no need to repeat this - Two hundred participants were included into the study since you have already mentioned the number of women included.

For the conclusion you can use the same wording from the main conclusion

Background

Line 34 Instead of saying "In sub-Saharan Africa, products such as herbs, chemicals, powder and papers are used by women for douching" you can say "In sub-Saharan Africa ....... and papers
are among substances inserted into the vagina" This is because the list you provide includes more than fluids, and that is now describing vaginal practices in general and not just douching

Line 39 to 41 suggested edit to be definite with effect - Most of these products are found to be hazardous to women's health by causing irritation to the vaginal mucosa.

Line 42 to 44 suggested edit - Water is the most commonly used product for the practice in Ghana. And then combine it with paragraph starting at line 47 as this is discussing water for douching and its negative impact. Suggestion to however to leave out the example of dental effect

Line 22 to 25 suggested edit: This study was conducted in the Bolgatanga Municipality to estimate the prevalence and assess predictors of vaginal douching practices among women in the Municipality.

Some comments on the ethics section:

This comment on document translation doesn't need action but it is important to have translation done before data collection otherwise quality of data maybe compromised by differences of on spot translation

What the consent verbal only? Is it a requirement to put in the separate components of the informed consent as we know this is what you obtained/information gave out in the informed consent process.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review? If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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