Author's response to reviews

Title: Cross sectional study on attitudes of Serbian mothers with preschool children: should a HIV-positive female teacher be allowed to continue teaching in school?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewer

Dear Sir Abraham Mukolo,

We would like to thank you for your time and assistance, appreciating your professional advice and trying to accept comments and suggestions. Also, thank you for critically reading the manuscript and helpful comments and suggestions.

Previous Line 120: We added "the" before HIV. The sentence was deleted in the course of English editing (Previous Line 119-122)
Previous Line 130 (new lines 130-131): According to your suggestion, we added more references
Previous Line 143 (new Line 144): We added 'the' before capacity
Previous Line 145 (new Line 145): We added 'and' before promoting
Previous Line 226 (new Line 239): We deleted extra comma
Previous Line 247 (new Line 258): We replaced 'a' with 'or'
Previous Line 248 (new Line 260): We added 'the' before HIV
Previous Line 254 (new Lines 403-406): Your comment about results we added in Discussion section:

   In spite of high literacy about how to prevent HIV infection, greater tolerance should be demonstrated towards those who get infected. Otherwise, everyone infected might be seen as irresponsible/reckless/uncaring persons. This may need to be studied with other categories of HIV-infected persons in general.

Previous Line 270 (new Line 284): We deleted comma. The sentence was deleted in the course of English editing
Previous Line 334 (new Line 350): We added 'a' between 'using' and 'condom'
Previous Line 337 (new Line 353): We added 'mother-to-child HIV transmission' and deleted hyphen
Previous Line 358 (new Line 373): We deleted quotation mark
Previous Line 364 (new Line 379): We added country where the study was conducted (the USA)

Previous Line 366 (new Line 381): According to your suggestion we added reference

Previous Line 375 (new Line 390): We added 'a' before number

Previous Line 377 (new Line 392): We added more citations to support the point that there are a number of studies

Previous Line 381 (new Line 395): We added 'the' before situation

Previous Line 382 (new Line 399): We deleted 'it is a fact" and replace with "Bernays and colleagues (54) have reported"

Previous Line 387 (new Line 399): We added article 'the' before low and in previous Line 388 (new Line 411), we added reference.

Previous Line 389-399 (new Lines 420-425): According to your suggestion referring to link between stigmatisation and depression, we have deleted sentence from previous Line 397 to Line 399 (new Lines 422-424): (Consequently, these women experience extreme psychological stress that exceeds their coping ability, which leads to adverse psychological outcomes, particularly depression which is more common in women than in men (21).) and added your sentence:

*If the stigma-induced distress was to exceed one's coping ability (21), then the observed stigmatizing attitudes could lead to adverse psychological outcomes.*

We hope that in this way we have obtained better understanding of our results.

Also, we added your suggestion that further investigations about the process particularly among women in Serbia are needed:

*Such a process needs to be further investigated, particularly among women in Serbia* (new Lines 424-425).

Also, a part between previous Lines 389 – 391 (new Lines 412-415) was shortened, and the new sentence is:

*Several studies show connection among the mental disease, stigma and HIV* (18, 55, 56).
We added 'an' between 'is' and 'additional'.

We added 'the' between 'of' and 'social.' After English editing, sentence was deleted.

According to your suggestion, we put 'the advocacy' instead of 'fight'.

We included the new reference as you suggested: UNAIDS: *Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV: Operational Plan for the UNAIDS Action Framework: Addressing Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV.*


Limitation section was reorganised and shortened in the course of English editing.

According to your suggestion, now the first sentence of the Conclusion is:

*Insufficient knowledge about HIV/AIDS, discriminatory attitudes and uncertainty about the safety of interacting with persons living with HIV influence the decision whether a HIV positive teacher should be allowed to continue teaching in school.*

Although it seems impossible to completely eradicate HIV/AIDS-related stigma, the efforts aimed at its eradication must be an integral part of HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives.

We deleted the first sentence of the second paragraph, Conclusion section, according to your suggestion:
Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure gender equality, as it contributes to stigma alleviation.

Additional editing was done by native speaker of English, according to your suggestion (Jonathan Erskine, Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Policy and Health, School of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health, Durham University, UK.).

Also, during English editing the text has been shortened.