Reviewer’s report

Title: Adolescents' reproductive health knowledge, choices and factors affecting reproductive health choices: a qualitative study in the West Gonja District in Northern Region, Ghana

Version: 0 Date: 08 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Bart (H.W.) van den Borne

Reviewer's report:

General comments

The study explored adolescents' knowledge about the reproductive health, choices, the type of choices they make and factors that affect these choices in a community in northern Ghana, applying a qualitative study. Focus group discussion with adolescents and individual interviews with stakeholders related to sexual reproductive health services were conducted. A weakness of the paper is that no clear conceptual framework has been applied for the study.

The description of the study design can be improved substantially. The two research methods that were used are not mentioned in the description of the design (focus groups discussions with adolescents and individual interviews with stakeholder).

In several places in the results section the authors report findings in term of numbers. However, this was a qualitative study that didn't use a representative sample, so does not allows the use of numbers or percentages.

The discussion of the results is rather superficial. For example, one of the findings reported is that the attitude of health care workers providing services to adolescents was negative. It is not clear to what extent this conclusion is based on the data from the adolescents or from the health care workers themselves. The paper provides very little information on the perceptions and attitudes of the stakeholders.

No limitations of the study are discussed.

The paper has lots of grammar mistakes and needs an extensive review, preferably by a native English speaker.

Specific comments

Page 4, line 12-14

Not clear what these statistics mean. Do you mean 11% of those 14% who begun child bearing? 3% of those who started child bearing? (Or 3% of the total population of females aged 15-19?)
Page 9, line 6-9
You are using numbers as if you conducted a quantitative study. Your research is not based on a representative sample, so in this way numbers have no meaning and should not be used.
Your focus needs to be on qualitative information.

Page 13, line 4
The meaning of this quote is not very clear. Who takes care of the girl? Who has invested in vain?

Page 15, line 16
I don't understand what this quote is saying.

Page 15, line 18-20
How did your study measure that unplanned pregnancies were common among adolescents? This is not a quantitative study.

Page 17, line 12-13
Your participants may perceive that the incidence of STIs is high. Your data don't show this. This is a qualitative study that is unable to show the extent of a problem (amounts or numbers).

Page 24, line 6-8
Which study you are referring to??
Based on the design of your study, it is unable to show the extent or incidence of unplanned pregnancies.

Further details are included in the attachment
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.

Yes

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

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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