Reviewer’s report

Title: Community perspectives on the extent to which transactional sex is viewed as sexual exploitation in Central Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 29 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Kalysha Closson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your responses. Overall, the authors have done a great job at addressing the reviewer comments. Also, the results section is very well presented. There are a few changes which I would suggest prior to publication.

1. The authors have added information on where the 'etic' definitions they refer to throughout the manuscript are coming from, however this should be noted in the abstract.

2. In the methods section, it is unclear how the translation process worked, did the study team conduct backtranslation processes for their study documents?

3. The authors do a great job at presenting the results. In order to reduce confusion, I wonder if the authors could distinguish when they are talking about participants, which age range they are referring to. They do this in some places, but it would be helpful to know when the quote in coming from a young woman herself or someone that is from the community but not directly a young women. These perceptions are important to distinguish

4. In the results section, please be consistent with the presentation of the person who is quoted. For example, on pg. 28 line 48 you do not include an age range for the participant, whereas the quote above does

5. I am still unsure about the framing of the paper. The authors discuss emic and etic definitions of sexual exploitation but then focus a lot of the paper on transactional sex. I understand that transactional sex according to the definitions can be considered sexual exploitation. However, I feel that there needs to be a bit of reframing around etic vs. emic definitions of transactional sex, or the authors need to discuss in more detail some of the findings that emerged around benefits of transactional sex.

6. In text, the authors do discuss how there were some themes that emerged around some of the perceived benefits of engaging in transactional sex but these are not included in the table.

7. In the strengths and weaknesses section of the paper, the authors discuss a strength of the paper is that they included adult men who were engaged in sexual relationships
with younger women. You don't discuss this in your results and conclusion as you mentioned that this would be included in another paper, as such I would remove it.

8. There are a number of places in your corrections/revisions that have typos, please review the paper carefully.

**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.

Unable to assess

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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