Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics of Rural Cambodian Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Risky Behaviors in two rural provinces of Cambodia

Version: 1 Date: 1 November 2014

Reviewer: Kelly L L'Engle

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Major Compulsory:
1. The manuscripts needs a hard edit--there are many grammatical errors, and a number of phrases/sentences that are unclear in the English writing.
2. The description of methods is insufficient, and many more details need to be added.
   --Please describe the two regions from which youth were sampled.
   --From who was informed consent and/or assent obtained? Peer-to-peer interviewing is referred to, but there is no description of this so it is not clear what role this played in data collection and who conducted the actual interviews.
   --On page 15, you state that "many declined to respond to questions about their personal sexual practices." Please add details about response to specific groups of questions or individual questions; this is a major issue that has substantive implications for the generalizability of your findings.
3. In the Methods section, Survey Questionnaire, there are several questions that appear exactly redundant with others--this may be a problem with the translation, but in any case needs to be addressed: (1) Does your household have enough income, and Do you think it is enough income? and (2) Do you plan to see a provider and Do you definitely plan to see a provider?; among others.
4. Relatedly, in Table 1, please clarify what the education levels correspond to, for those not familiar with the Cambodian educational system.
5. There are other indicators that are not clearly described: for example, on page 9 you refer to "attitudes toward future sex in their remaining adolescence" which does is quite unclear; on page 13 you refer to "youth feeling ready to cause a pregnancy" and "wanted free sex" and this is unclear.
6. In the Results section, please note that it is incorrect to state that there were differences across groups when the differences were not statistically significant--you can refer to trends in your data but please be more careful with these statement. Page 14 is replete with such statements about "increased risk" when your data showed trends that did not reach statistical significance. Also, you ran a number of statistical test so you need to be aware that by chance some of these will result in statistically significant findings.
7. A number of indicators are presented in this manuscript. There are too many tables, so perhaps your team can try other presentation forms such as visuals using graphs; this may work well for alcohol and drug practices, for example. For this manuscript, I suggest deleting some of your analyses and focusing on fewer indicators. Also, for statistical testing, cells/subgroups that have fewer than 5 responses are often not valid to include in your tests, for many types of analyses. Please work with your statistical expert to address.

Discretionary Revisions

1. I recommend changing your title as it is redundant, to Characteristics of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Risky Behaviors in Rural Cambodian Youth
2. What are some reasons that girls might report having not enough income more often than boys?
3. On page 13, you refer to a "lack of reproductive health knowledge by the parent." This belongs in the discussion instead, and please elaborate as it is not clear the context of this statement.
4. On page 16, please provide context/comparison between your samples's sexual debut and activity in comparison to other samples of Cambodian youth.
5. On page 16, you state several reasons why few youth reported using sexual health services; however, you are missing a major reason--that many youth just don't need or perceive they need these services.
6. Please elaborate in your discussion, on the role of parents in educating youth about sexual health as you state they are under prepared but do not provide further elaboration.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests to declare.