Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli

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Characteristics of rural Cambodian youth sexual and reproductive health and risky behaviours in two rural provinces of Cambodia

Detailed comments on the paper:

Introduction:

Para 1:
Line 5: Reference 2 is not appropriate.

Para 2:
Last line: Reference 4 is an unpublished report published 18 years ago.

Youth situation:

Para 1:
Line 2: Reference 5 is ten years old. Statements about the population structure and proportions should be backed up with more recent references.
Line 3: Reference 6 is eleven years old.
Line 5: To the best of my knowledge there is no such thing as United Nations Population Council.

Para 2:
This para contains many broad statements but is not backed up by any references.

Para 3:
The para starts with a statement about rural youth, but the data presented is not about rural youth.

Line 8: Reference 12 is from 2002, reference 13 is from 2008 and reference 7 is from 2005. Use more up to date references.

Para 4:
No changes suggested.

Para 5:
Lines 2-4 (Evidence suggests... young infants or adults): Provide a reference to back up the statement.
Lines 4-5 (These approaches…child bearing practices): Please provide a reference.

Lines 7-8: Please provide a reference to the Cambodian Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health project.

Para 6:
No changes suggested.

Methodology:
Population and sampling:
Did you use data that had already been collected ? Or did you only use data that you gathered.
Eligibility criteria:
No changes suggested.
Surveyors:
No changes suggested.
Survey questionnaire:
Para 1:
No changes suggested.
Para 2:
No changes suggested.
Para 3:
I am uncomfortable about the way the questions phrased on potentially stigmatizing behaviour.
Statistical analysis:
No changes suggested.

Results:
Demographic analysis:
No changes suggested.
Household economics:
No changes suggested.
Migratory practices:
Lines 5-8: Please say what kind of occupational abuse occurred.
Reproductive health characteristics:
Para 1:
Line 3: Please explain what you mean by ‘…youth do not expect a sexual partner’.
Para 2:
I am not sure about the value of asking young people whether they plan to use reproductive health services in the future.

Para 3:
No changes suggested.

Para 4:
This para contains many different issues – interest in getting married, sexual experience, age of sexual debut, number of partners, type of partners, context in which sexual debut.

Health seeking behaviours:
Para 1:
Line 2: When you say information, do you mean services.

Para 2:
Lines 1-3: Sexual and reproductive health services can include both preventive and curative services.

Alcohol and drug use:
Para 1:
No changes suggested.

Para 2:
I am not comfortable with the way in which the questions were posed.

Did you ask questions about condom use while not under the influence of alcohol? If you had, that would have provided a useful basis for comparison with behaviour under the influence of alcohol.

Para 3:
Again, I am not comfortable with the way in which the questions were posed.

Gender comparison:
Para 1:
You can only use the word increase if you are discussing trends. Here you are reporting on differences in levels between males and females.

Para 2:
I am not comfortable with the way in which the questions were posed.

The point I made about the use of the word increase applies here as well.

Logistic regression:
Para 1:
Lines 3: What do you mean by the phrase negative attitude towards reproductive health?

I am not comfortable with the way in which the following question is posed: Feeling ready to cause a pregnancy’.
Para 2:
The association is hard to explain.
Lines 2 and 3: The explanation provided for the association does not make sense to me.
Para 3: I am not comfortable with the way in which the questions on risk behaviour have been framed.
Para 4:
Again this association is hard to explain.
Para 5:
As commented earlier, I am not comfortable with the phase ‘feeling ready to cause a pregnancy’.
Para 6:
Line 1: The category risky practices, includes items that are covered elsewhere. So I am not clear why you have brought these items together as one group.
Discussion:
Para 1:
Lines 4 and 5: Buddhist values were not covered in your survey. Please explain the basis of your statement.
Para 2:
Lines 3 and 4: Please replace the word gender with the word sex. Gender is a social construct.
Para 3:
I am not clear what point is being made here.
Para 4:
Lines 10 and 11: Please provide a reference to the assertion that a sexual encounter prior to marriage is expected.
Para 5:
No changes suggested.
Para 6:
Lines 5-8: The small number of young people who reported having sought SRH services may well be because of the way in which the question was phrased.
Para 7:
No changes suggested.
Para 8:
No changes suggested.
Para 9:
Line 1: Please note that this is reported behaviour.
Para 10:
Lines 3-13: The discussion on pornography goes far beyond the findings. I am not comfortable with the way in which it has been discussed.

Para 11:
Line 2: I am not comfortable with the use of the phase ‘negative attitudes towards sexual and reproductive health services’.
Line 6: References 38 and 39 are 15 years old.

Para 12:
Line 5: Reference 42 is 11 years old.

Limitations:
Para 1:
No changes suggested.
Para 2 and 3:
The points made are valid but do not belong in this section on limitations.

Conclusion:
No changes suggested.