Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of Peer Education Intervention on Sexual Behaviors of Secondary School Students in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: a Quasi-Experimental Study

Version: 2 Date: 19 May 2015

Reviewer: Abubakar Manu

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Report

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The methodology should have a section devoted to measures of the study. This section should describe how key variables used in the study were measured. Even though the authors tried to list some variables, listing is not enough. They should be clear about how variables like comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and condom use consistency were measured.

2. The study questionnaire was translated from English to Amharic. Did you do back translation from Amharic to English?

3. Line 247: The outcome variable “condom use in the last 12 months” preceding the survey is not a good measure of risk. Consistency of condom use is a better measure. If you meant consistency of condom use in last 12 months, then revise accordingly, and thereafter show how that variable was measured (see comment 1). On the other hand, if the authors asked about condom use at last sex in their questionnaire, then they could use that variable instead of “condom use in the last 12 months”.

Minor Essential Revisions

4. General comments:
   a. The authors need to relook at the whole manuscript and fix grammar and sentence constructions. Related paragraphs should be merged and grammar should be reviewed. I have suggested a few in my comments below.
   b. The study title should reflect the content of the manuscript. It would more helpful to introduce HIV/AIDS in the title.

5. Abstract:
   a. Line 30, replace experiencing with “engage in”.
   b. Merge paragraphs 2 & 3 (Lines 31-35)
   c. Merge paragraphs 5 & 6 (Lines 36-43)
   d. Merge paragraphs 8 & 9 (Lines 53-60)

6. Background:
a. Lines 88-90. The paragraph is not well situated to fit the background information you have provided. You may either revise it to fit well OR delete it entirely, because its significance is lost.
b. Line 93: Replace AIDS with HIV
c. Lines 96-103: Merge paragraphs by introducing ‘additionally’ at need of line 99 to bridge the two paragraphs. Line 98, the sentence should be in present tense.
d. Lines 105-110: This paragraph needs to be re-constructed and fix all grammatical errors to make it more meaningful. The last but one sentence, beginning with “these groups can be…” should deleted.
e. Lines 121-126: This paragraph needs to be revised.

7. Methods and materials
a. Was the study conducted among secondary schools or preparatory schools? The authors need to clarify this because line 171 specifies that 4 preparatory schools (out of 30) were purposively selected from different Sub-cities, while line 182 states that participants were selected from secondary schools.
b. Sampling procedure: How and why did you select 30 secondary and preparatory schools? What was the sampling universe?
c. Line 173: replace “has taken” with “used”.
d. The authors have clearly justified the parameters for the sample size calculation, but the construction of sentences makes it difficult to understand. Authors need to revise the paragraph on sample size calculation and make it more clearer. Sentences should be shorter.
e. Line 189: Delete “issues and” from the sentence.
f. Line 210: Delete “have” from the sentence.
g. Line 213: Directors and Deputy Directors from where?

8. Data Analysis:
a. Lines 232: Replace “transported” with “exported”.
b. Line 248: Define HCT and replace “Accordingly” with “A”.
c. You used logistic regression technique to test associations. How did you assess the strength of association?

Discretionary Revisions
1. Results:
2. Please revise the results section. Check sentence construction and grammar.
3. Line 279: Delete “were observed”
4. The discussion section should be strengthened by discussing only the key findings.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest.