Reviewer’s report

Title: Sexuality, fertility and family planning characteristics of married women aged 15 to 19 years in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania: a comparative analysis of cross-sectional data

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Reviewer: Manahil Siddiqi

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The present article, "Sexuality, fertility and family planning characteristics of married women aged 15 to 19 years in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania: a comparative analysis of cross-sectional data" sets out to contribute to existing literature on adolescent sexual and reproductive health through a study reporting on key sexuality, fertility, and contraception indicators amongst adolescent married girls in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Tanzania.

Overall, the article is well written and well organized, providing the reader a clear understanding of what it sets out to do.

The paper's background section would be strengthened with discussion of these different characteristics within the context of child marriage, specifically. This particularly important given the fact that the majority of their sample across the different countries married before the age of 18 years. Please also include the specific SDG goals relating to reproductive health that this work relates to (Goal and Target numbers). The rationale for country selection is also important here, and cannot simply be explained away by referencing other materials on the Adolescent Health 360 study, otherwise this paper feels incomplete as a stand-alone study and paper.

The inclusion of male partners of adolescents in union is important. Some explanation as to why the figures for male partners are so low is recommended. Tables 2 and 3 lay out the study results very clearly.

While this paper reports on various measures of sexuality, and family planning, it is very clear that despite the extensive sampling of different populations, this is simply the baseline reporting of various characteristics which are yes, important on their own, but less interesting without describing the effects of a particular intervention or the contributing factors associated with these factors.

An important question to address: What are the research and programmatic implications of these result reporting on comparisons in unmet need and fertility intentions across these three settings? The paper mentions that a strength of the study is that it compared population-based data from three settings using a large sample, but what is the significance of this on its own, besides this work serving as the baseline for the Adolescent 360 Program.
What are some of socio-cultural and structural barriers shared or dissimilar across these settings? ("Barriers" are mentioned, but little explanation is provided).

Human centered design is brought up in the conclusions only, and comes slightly out of nowhere given that there is not explicit mention of it in the introduction/background or the discussion section.

With some attention to the issues raised above, this paper can make an significant contribution to the literature.

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