Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceptions and intervention preferences of Moroccan adolescents, parents, and teachers regarding risks and protective factors for risky sexual behaviors leading to sexually transmitted infections in adolescents: Qualitative findings

Version: 2 Date: 26 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Elsie Akwara

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting topic and relevant to the issues of adolescent's SRH. The general comments are that there needs to be a refinement to the objectives of the study, clarification of definitions (youth, young people, adolescents) and more information on Morrocan adolescents in the literature. There are several references to sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the US in your introduction and discussion which have very different contexts when it comes to adolescents' sexual and reproductive health. I would suggest you align your research to be relevant with countries of the same context.

Specific comments:

Grammatical issues,

Page 7, line 142-144- This sentence needs rephrasing, a little confusing.


Page 9, line 195

Page 10, line 218-227

Page 10, line 237

Page 21, line 469- 471

Page 22 line 483

Page 23, line 519

Page 25 line 564
Under Background in the abstract: Bring STIs more to the forefront, your focus is on risky and protective sexual practices leading to STIs, yet this is not mentioned in the background nor aims (p.g 6, line 133-137).

What does adolescence period mean? Menarche? Perhaps rephrase this more clearly.

Page 5, Line 94-96: "Many individuals…." Are these adolescents?

Introduction section needs more information on adolescents. In page 4, line 78-80, there is information in Morocco, however we do not know about the adolescent situation in Morocco. Additionally, there is reference to adolescents, youth, young people, you need to be consistent in referring to specific populations, for instance adolescents are 10-19-year old, young people includes up to 24 year old. Is there more information on adolescents (your specific target group) in Morocco? If not have comparisons with countries with a similar context to Morocco.

Page 6, line 140: Under methods, you did not triangulate the data. Triangulation is using more than one method to collect data on the same topic. In your research, only FGDs were used, please rephrase.

Page 8, line 175-176: rephrase perceived barriers and facilitators for risky sexual behaviours… to perceived risky behaviors and protective factors for sexual behaviours and STIs.

Page 10, line 235: Theme 1, rephrase heading to Risky sexual practices and STIs (Individual level) and merge with theme 2- Knowledge goes hand in hand with practices to some extent (transactional sex and alcohol and drug use)

Page 17, line 379-380: What is meant by students do not react in an active way? Please rephrase or elaborate more.

Page 18- Theme 5: Social media is part of media and internet, perhaps rephrase to say "Media, including internet and social media."

Page 19- 21: Theme 6 can be rephrased to Socio- cultural norms, the sub- themes (normalization, religiosity) are unnecessary.

Page 21 line 473-475: this paragraph is confusing, please elaborate or rephrase.

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