Reviewer’s report

Title: Gender-based violence among female youths in educational institutions of Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic review and Meta-analyses

Version: 0 Date: 08 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Doreen Kahangire

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an interesting study, with a range of concepts identified that could potentially be built upon with future research in this field. The article is well written and the flow is satisfactory too. Additionally, the strengths and limitations of the study have also been disclosed relative to the generalizability of the study findings. However, the article could benefit from further clarity on the following concepts:

1. What is the definition of GBV according to this SR?

2. Is the focus of GBV, according to this review, on an individual, societal, community or relationship/family level?

3. How can the results of this review be used to inform or advocate for policy changes or GBV prevention and management national plans across SSA?

4. Research recommendations should be informed from the study limitations i.e. it is important to indicate that due to the high heterogeneity of the included studies, future GBV studies undertaken across SSA should utilize a standardized methodology which could allow for comparisons to be made over time.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field that should be highlighted to relevant networks

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

None

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal

Were you mentored through this peer review?

No