Reviewer’s report

Title: Social determinants and risk behaviors associated with prevalent Hepatitis C and HIV/HCV co-infection among male injection drug users in Nepal

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Reviewer: Gebremedhin Gebregergs

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's Comment

Abstract

L 9: "Hepatitis C"…makes it complete, Hepatitis C Virus

Line45: The recommendations are not supported by your findings

Introduction

L25: keep the ascending order of references (5&4)

L45-46 ... "Although, HIV among PWID has significantly decreased from 2002 to 2015"...
………………Mention from "which to which magnitude, and in what context" has to be clearly stated.

Q1: Who are PWID? Need to be clearly stated.

Method

Q1: How much is sample is enrolled and how was that determined?

L57: It is not how the respondent driven sampling (non-probability technique) and cluster sampling (probability technique) are applied.

Result

L4: 28% vs. 29 % in abstract

Q1: to which variables are you referring as "social determinants?"
L26: "higher" make it "higher than"

L31: Risky drug injecting behaviors…. mention them.

L41-46: "PWID who had consistent condom used with regular female sex partners had prevalence of 46% and inconsistent condom use with non-regular female sex partners had prevalence of 31%" this has to explained in the discussion section

L19-21: "All determinants significant with HCV prevalence in bivariate analysis were included the multivariate logistic model." Place it in the method section

You have mentioned that, region (district) is associated with HCV in multivariate logistic regression. Q2: How plausible is this? Any relationship cannot be valid if it cannot be epidemiologically or clinically explained.

Discussion
L58: ……….. "Provided an ideal passage for smugglers for decades" what is your evidence for this?
L12-14: "...Because of limited education, poor socio-economic status, low perfection of their own risk makes them more likely to involve in risky injecting and sexual behaviors..."…Q1: was educational status and income associated with HCV or HCV/HIV co-infection rate in this study?

The recommendations need to specific and supported with findings

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