Reviewer’s report

Title: HIV Positive Sero-Status disclosure and its determinants among People Living with HIV/AIDS following ART Clinic in Jimma University Specialized Hospital, Southwest Ethiopia: A facility-based cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 06 May 2017

Reviewer: F Francis

Reviewer's report:

HIV status disclosure and its determinants among PLWHA following ART clinic in Jimma University Specialised Hospital, Southeast Ethiopia-A facility based cross-sectional study

GENERAL COMMENTS:

This is an interesting work looking at disclosure of HIV sero-status among PLWHA at Jimma University Hospital. The overall comment is on the English language used in the manuscript which will need extensive revision for this manuscript to present the intended message.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

Title: The title should be revised and could read 'HIV sero-status disclosure among PLWHA attending ART clinic at Jimma University Hospital, Southeast Ethiopia

Abstract:

The background section in the abstract has been lifted from the background of the manuscript; it might be useful if the authors write a succinct background section of the abstract without copying and pasting.

Background:

The background of the manuscript has largely focused on the epidemiological aspect of HIV infection globally and regionally. The authors have not highlighted the subject of this study which is disclosure of HIV sero-status in the Ethiopia. Even the study which was conducted in the same centres and was used to calculate the sample size by the authors has not been mentioned. To my knowledge several studies have been conducted in Ethiopia on HIV sero-status disclosure, therefore the authors should have identified the gaps on the existing knowledge...
and justify conducting this study by at least looking at some of the published work on this subject from Ethiopia

Methods: There are several issues that need to be addressed by the authors in the methods section and these include

* The systematic randomly sampling should be clearly described

* The statement 'data were collected by the 18th PLWA..' is no clear, does it imply these PLWA were also research assistants, or is this meant to show which participants were recruited? If the latter is the case what is the 18th meant to be, is it the 18th person on the list of that particular day attendance or is it every 18th person recruited into ART program?

* On average how many participants were recruited/ day?

* What variables were recorded using the questionnaires, i.e. describe the sociodemographic, community factors variables etc., it would be useful to describe some of the questions in the methods.

* Five BSc Nurses collected data from participants, what was the role of the nurse supervisor, and was this supervisor different from the five nurses who collected data?

* In which language were the questionnaires prepared?

* Was the pre-testing of questionnaires done on HIV infected patients or on general population?, was it conducted in the similar setting?

* Who checked for data completeness?

* In the analysis why did authors choose only variables with p<0.025 in the univariate model to include in the multivariate model?

Results:

In the results section there are several issues that need to be addressed which include

* Language used in this section as it is the case in other sections has major problems particularly in grammar

* In line 162, in the results section, authors have reported 'Compared to last year, 273 (77.8%) of them were better now than last year regarding to their health status progress.'
* In result section with sub-title social demographic, social and behavioural factors that associated with HIV positive status disclosure among participants, authors have indicated perceived stigma and social domains of quality of life to have association with disclosure. These findings are not supported by the methods utilised in this study. It was not stated in the methods that quality of life was assessed in this study and which tool was utilised for that; similarly it is not clear how stigma was measure in this study.

Discussion:

The discussion is not written in coherent manner and one may find it difficult to get what the authors are inferring to their results. The authors have only mentioned several reports in this subject and there is no clear link with what this study reported.

For instance in the discussion section the paragraph starting from line number 258 to 265, reports on findings of study in China and other African studies but there is no clear relation to the findings of this study.

Study limitation:

The limitation for this study are not clearly written, the authors should highlight how their chosen study could have affected the findings of their study. The advice given in this section on how to conduct similar study does not have clear link with section in which it is placed.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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