

Review of: "Factors Associated with Contraceptive Use Among Migrant Female Head Porters in the Kumasi Metropolis"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Abstract

"Findings have policy implications for improving contraceptive uptake among migrant female head porters. The study recommends that government scales up efforts towards regular testing for HIV/AIDS among head porters, free subscription to the National Health Insurance Scheme, and promoting the use of contraceptives to reduce vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies among the female migrant head porters"

The conclusion should highlight the main findings from the study. Recommendations need to be aligned with the trust of the paper. I recommend restructuring of the conclusion and recommendations.

Keywords

Restructure. Consider – Contraception, Family planning, unmet need for contraception, unwanted pregnancy, Female migrant, porter

Introduction

Rewrite/restructure. It has not justified the need for the study.

Study Population

"There are no accurate statistics on migrant female head porters in Ghana as a result the study lacked a sampling frame hence it was difficult obtaining a sample size that is more scientific (Baah-Ennumh, Amponsah and Adoma, 2012; Afriyie et al. 2015). Due to this limitation, two hundred (200) migrant female head porters (Kayeyei) between the reproductive ages (12-49) were sampled intuitively for the study. For security reasons, head porters live in groups (Anzagra and Yeboah, 2012) and clusters (Adomah, 2009) with each group having a leader. The study identified four clusters of groups in the Kumasi Metropolis, Race Course, Kejetia, Adum, and the Central Business District."

It is not clear. Who are the female migrants? Are they Ghanaians? If the study population is not known, it is not wrong for the authors to assume that 50% of the migrants are likely to have the problems of interest. This can serve as the prevalence (0.5) and the sample size obtained using a cross sectional formula at Z value of 1.95, P = 0.5, d = 0.05. One

can conduct a pilot study to help determine the point prevalence of unmet need of contraception among the study population which can be used for sample size estimation. Sample size of 200 used in the study is not scientific. What do the author meant by “sample intuitively”?

Sampling

“First, the president of the Kayayei association of Ghana was contacted prior to the study, and the objectives were explained to her in detail. After her approval, she referred the team to the chairman of the Kayayei association in Kumasi. The chairmen then contacted the leaders of the four clusters and informed them of the intended research. The research team met with the leaders of the cluster groups and decided on days that were feasible for them to get their members to respond to questionnaires. It is worth noting that the Kayayei business is well-regulated, and one cannot get them to answer questions without the consent of their superiors. Questionnaire administration was carried out on Sundays at the places of residence of head porters when they are free from work and performing house chores. Head porters were conveniently sampled depending on their availability and willingness to participate in the study”

It is not properly written. One might be interested in the sampling technique used for study population recruitment. It should be well detailed that another researcher working in any part of world can repeat the study in their clime. Why would consent of their superior needed for the study population to answer the questionnaire? Are they slaves or are being maltreated because they are down trodden? The authors should properly clarify this issue because it is a major confounder.

Data collection and analysis

Not clear

Ethical issue

Not clear. Add ethical number.

Results

Correct the grammar.

Add the p-values in the table 2 for easy understanding

“This exposes the vulnerability of female head porters to the risks of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases”

“This implies that, respondents viewed their general health and functional state as okay and that they do not need to seek healthcare”

Avoid above statements in the legends of the table. Write out important/salient points of the table. Do the discussion in the Discussion.

Discussion

It is not properly written. The argument and line of thoughts are not properly organized. Findings need to be linked with previous studies or reason adduced for the findings.

“Fifty percent of the sampled population were aged between 12-20 years this age structure reflects the Kaya business. As head porters age, they exit the trade (Opare, 2010). The Kayaye business is laborious and energy intensive. (Awumbila, 2007; Baah-Ennumh et al., 2012; Kporku 2014). The main reason for young girls engaging in the Kaya business is to accumulate resources to learn a trade and acquire properties (clothing, jewelry, kitchenware, etc) for marriage. Literature suggests the deliberate recruitment and exploitation of young girls by experienced head porters from their communities into the cities to engage in the business of head porterage (Anarfi and Kwankye, 2005; Afriyie et al., 2015; Opare, 2010). Older Kayaye who are familiar with the business, use that advantage to lure young girls from their villages and exploit them financially by serving as chaperones to them. This has implications as it accounts for the rampant school dropout and subsequent transit to the cities, following the beautiful stories told by the so-called experienced head porters about city life.” Above paragraph is not line with the result. It looks off tangent.

“Arguably, having multiple sexual partners increases the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. Literature affirms that female head porters engaged in prostitution as a supplementary source of income (Anarfi and Kwankye 2005; Kombian, 2019)”. The statement seems unfair to general population of Porters around the globe bearing in mind that the referenced study was limited to a locality. Restructure the statement. It might be better to write – some studies suggest that

Conclusion

Restructure to reflect the findings from the study.