

# Review of: "Exploring Perceptions on Sexual Empowerment Among Heterosexual Black Women in Braamfontein, Johannesburg"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This manuscript provides critical evidence on the rate of successful transition from pediatric HIV care to adult care for children and adolescents living with HIV in Ethiopia and reveals a gap in this critical transition. The manuscript also identified multiple predictors that were associated with successful transition and provides meaningful and relevant interpretation and discussion on the findings. The study will be stronger and more comprehensible if modified in the following aspects before publication:

This manuscript provides critical findings on perceptions of sexual empowerment from South African women in a highly gender-unequal society using qualitative study methods and interviews. The manuscript is strong in summarizing and synthesizing a solid literature review on the concepts, constructs, and schools of thought around sexual inequality, sexual empowerment, and sexuality. It also illustrated a gap in the literature that is lacking sexual empowerment findings from the voices of the key population themselves. But the manuscript is weakened by its ambiguous description of the study method, sampling techniques, and small sample size, and lack of adherence to standard reporting of findings. The manuscript could be improved by the following:

1. Significance of the study: "There is little research done in South Africa... on female adolescents" – this sentence is confusing; maybe paraphrase for clarity.
2. Method – Sampling: How did you recruit the participants? The authors noted snowball sampling but did not report on where they started for the first participant. "22-30 years old residing in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa" is a wide definition; recruitment venues would be critical in understanding the findings.
3. Result – Table 1 is too simplistic. Typically, a research paper should report on the number of participants, participant age, sex, education, and other socio-economic status, and topic-related characteristics in summary statistics instead of listing out each participant.
4. Discussion – Acknowledge or address the sample size being small and its implications, or how you assess saturation and whether it is considered saturated by the sample size.

