

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

Alhassan Siiba¹

¹ Queen's University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Factors Associated with Contraceptive Use Among Migrant Female Head Porters in the Kumasi Metropolis

General Comments

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this paper. The paper gives some understanding of the factors influencing the use of contraceptives among Kayayeis in Ghana. I feel that the paper is a relevant one and may contribute to our understanding of how key health issues, particularly in relation to sexual behaviours, of the Kayakeis can be enhanced from the perspective of a context in which such research has not been widely explored. Nonetheless, if the author could appropriately address the following specific issues, the paper may be more appropriate for consideration and publication in Qeios.

Introduction

1. It will be better to clearly state the main objective of the study in the introduction, but also to highlight how the rest of the research is structured. This will be useful in guiding potential readers through the paper.
2. In paragraph 3 of page 2/11, the statement "**... and declines the women ages...**" should be changed to "**.... and declines as the women age ...**"
3. In paragraph 4 of page 2/11, the statement "**The last two decade has...**" should be changed to "**The last two decades have...**"
4. In paragraph 4 of page 2/11, the statement "**These female migrants are popularly referred to as Kayayei in local Ghanaian parlance are engaged in the business of head load carrying (porterage) to earn a living**" should be reconstructed as "**These female migrants, who are popularly referred to as Kayayei in local Ghanaian parlance, are engaged in the business of head load carrying (porterage) to earn a living.**"
5. In paragraph 1 of page 3/11, the statement "**... young girls migrant....**" should be changed to "**... young girls migrate...**"

Methodology

Study population

1. The statement that the study lacked a sampling frame is somewhat intriguing to me. I think a better reason can be stated for this. As you have argued, referring to previous studies may be helpful. Further in the section, you also argued that **“The study identified four clusters of groups in the Kumasi Metropolis, Race Course, Kejetia, Adum, and the Central Business District.”** What was the total number of Kayayeis from these clusters? I think that the total from these clusters could be used as the sampling frame, and from which a representative sample could be selected.
2. The authors mentioned that **“First, the president of the Kayayei association of Ghana was contacted prior to the study, and the objectives were explained to her in detail.”** What did the president say about the total number of Kayayeis in the study setting? I think that the authors could also get an idea of the sampling frame from the president.
3. Again, authors stated that “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. I am curious, if the Kayayei is well-regulated, why did the issue of lack of sampling frame exist?”

In general, I am just suggesting that the authors could have stated their concern about the sampling frame within the context of the above opportunities to put together a context specific way of getting the sampling frame.

Data Collection and Data Analysis Plan

1. The authors stated that **“The questionnaire consisted of both closed and open-ended questions which were used to obtain information from head porters.”** However, I did not get any idea, throughout the paper, how the open-ended part of the questionnaire was analyzed, and or threaded in the discussion to support the quantitative findings. It is clear from the reading that most of the statements from the quantitative data could be explained better, perhaps by using statements from the participants to support those.

Ethical Consideration

1. **“Ethical clearance was obtained from the Committee on Human Research and Publication and Ethics of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science Technology prior to the conduct of this research.”** What is the reference number for such statement?

Results

1. Please recheck the proportions in Table 1. Some of them are not adding up to 100%, example being the “Monthly income (GH¢)” variable. Alternatively, you may state the reasons for that.
2. Also, as you have already indicated that all the proportions are in percentages, there is no need to repeat the % symbol, as you did for most of the variables in the table.
3. **“An overwhelming number (97%) of respondents affirmed they have had unprotected sex in the past month.”** How many of the participants had unprotected sex with their legally married partners? This makes it necessary to indicate however many of them were married. I do not expect married couples to have protected sex always, especially when they intend to have kids. Thus, it is important to substantiate that in the analysis and

discussion.

4. **“Respondents were asked to rank their health at the time of the survey to ascertain the perceived need.”**This statement is not clear. What was the import for doing so? How was that related to contraceptive use?
5. **“The low earnings reflect the low standard of living among the head porters which may affect their ability to afford and utilize contraceptives.”** What suggests that they were earning low incomes, what is the benchmark?
6. **How were the DV variables recorded?**

Discussion

1. The authors have written Kayayei as **“Kaya”**. **It will be appropriate to be consistent.**

Thank you.