

Review of: "Operational Research on Transformative Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights During Adolescents' Initiation Rituals, Nampula, Mozambique, 2022"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study is unique and impactful in the sense that it touches on the adolescent initiation rights [AIR] counsellor platform that is often ignored in adolescent sexual reproductive health (SRH) and rights interventions development and implementation furnishing a missed opportunity for positive adolescent health outcomes and for bridging the knowledge / skills dissemination gap between the formal schooling adolescent group and the out of school often neglected group. The study could also inform structural and combination options interventions for adolescent health as it targets socio-cultural as well as gender disparity gaps that underlie barriers to adolescent sexual behavior change. However, authors need to work on the following areas before the paper is published.

Introduction

Authors need to give a brief background in their introductory first paragraph on the nature of adolescent initiation rights [AIR] in sub-Saharan Africa, then proceed to draw associations with adverse health outcomes like teenage pregnancy, infant mortality and maternal mortality as well as requisite prevalence within the sub-Saharan African region. The data could be sourced from National Demographic & Health Surveys within the region.

Methods

There is need for a comprehensive methods section that should explicitly specify how data was collected and especially analyzed.

In analysis for instance, authors could highlight what qualitative procedures were employed? Were the interviews translated considering that a majority of respondents were not literate, transcribed and coded? What was the nature of coding – deductive or inductive or both? Could they include their code-book? How were themes generated and how many themes emerged from the data? Any software used in the analysis process e.g., Nvivo or Dedoose and/or was Excel used in the process and how?

Results

In their results, I expect authors include excerpts of some narratives from participants, for example direct quotes on diverse aspects of AIR as included for instance in the AIR curriculum. In other words, the direct interviewee perspectives.

I am recommending this because the paper more or less reflects the perceptions and biases of the researcher; hence missing on participant perspectives, a vital component of, and as is expected of qualitative research.