



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_29469
Title of the Manuscript:	Determinants of sexual risk practices and HIV transmission among women of childbearing age in sub-urban communities of Rivers State, Nigeria
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	Title The title is confusing, therefore it should be reviewed; authors may think through suggestions below: - Determinants of sexual risk practices among women of childbearing age in sub-urban communities of Rivers State, Nigeria - Sexual risk practices influencing HIV transmission among women of childbearing age in sub-urban communities of Rivers State, Nigeria Introduction This should be reviewed, the author should tell us briefly what HIV/AIDS is before stating devastating effects (ie simply follow World Health Organization's 5Ws (What, Who, Where, Why, when). The authors conducted literature reviews to arrive at introduction and used the findings to generate sexual risk practices which were used to design questionnaire and factors explored from the respondents, good job! However, this review was not comprehensive/detailed, as there are sexual practices in typical African settings that are not explored, example: polyandry, unprotected receptive anal intercourse, wife inheritance, ghost marriage, sex exchange for gift/cash. The authors can still improve on this article through a thorough literature review otherwise it will be too weak for academic paper acceptance. Some of the literatures are old for this subject (over ten years articles eg 2002, 1996, etc). I expect to see recent national publication reports such as (NARSH) <i>National HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health</i>	The title has been revised to read: Predictors of sexual risk practices among women of childbearing age in sub-urban communities of Rivers State, Nigeria. The introduction has been revised as suggested



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	<i>Survey, 2012.</i> Methodology Further data analysis is required to bring this paper out of the level it is. Example: National survey findings from NARSH consistently revealed that HIV/AIDS prevalence among women of reproductive age is highest among widows/divorce/separated. Google this: 2013 Samson B. Adebayo et al. or use 2007, 2012 NARSH reports. Also, if authors can analysis/ disaggregate the data by sexual risk practices among: 1) Single versus ever-married (married/separated/widow). 2) You may further analysis by ever-married categories: married, separated/divorced, widow. A few citations may be added in the body of your work. Eg NARSH 2007, NARSH 2012, 2013 Samson B. Adebayo et al. or etc. It's surprising to see that women that are employed are more prone to risky sexual practices than unemployed women; you may wish to check your data in Table4. Check this: "women who were single were 2.5 times more likely to engage in HIV sexual risk behavior than those ever-married" Some women may consider themselves as single since they are separated/divorced or widowed. Again "women who were singles were 2.5 times more likely to engage....." May not be true, You interviewed 399 singles and compared the data with 347 married women. Definitely this may not be a true representation except you assign weight on the two categories and reanalyze.	The table 4 shows the frequencies of sexual risk practices disaggregated by the various categories of marital status. The proportion of sexual risk practices was higher among the unemployed than the employed women. In the multivariate analysis, the adjusted odds ratio was 1.231 but this was not statistically significant (95% CI – 0.88-1.718; p value= 0.22) In the multivariate analysis, marital status was recorded as currently unmarried (singles) and currently married. It was
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	Discussion Some of the points authors discussed under this section were not part of findings: Example 1) Socioeconomic variable/poverty is key to sexual risk taking, which you have not explored in your study. Therefore it will be inappropriate to bring it up at this stage. As you stated "Reports of sexual risk taking in sub-Saharan Africa have been linked with poverty" 2) "Availability of better clinical management" 3) "Weak health systems" 4) "Resource limitation" 5) It would have been important to link implications of economic recession declared in Nigeria with sexual risk behaviour of women of reproductive age. Authors should focus discussion on the findings of their study Conclusion It is inappropriate to use citation under Conclusion section; it should be solely the expression of authors on the bases of their findings. References Numbering of references is not required Please clarify the Plagiarism: The article has 30% similarity index with other published papers, the authors should revisit affected sections in order to rewrite in their own words and reduce similarity level with other person's work, see attached originality report (pages 12 - 21).	necessary to collapse the marital status to avoid error terms in the model. Homogeneity tests reveal that the two groups are comparable. Discussion modified accordingly. The study was carried out before the declaration of economic recession. Nevertheless, modified as suggested. The section modified to correct the error The Vancouver referencing style was used as stated in the guidelines for authors. This required numbering of the references. All sentences that appeared similar with other people's words have been rephrased.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	The authors should have explored a) Non-use of condom: in terms of male condom and female condom. b) Unprotected sexual intercourse should have been explored in terms of unprotected receptive anal intercourse, vaginal intercourse. In most African oil rich communities, one unique feature is disconnection between the wealth generated from oil and socioeconomic status of people in the oil community. This makes them engage in risky practices such as militancy, sex in exchange for cash/oil money, etc. You have not sufficiently inter-related these in this study.	Suggestions are noted and will be considered in our subsequent research efforts.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	In order to improve on this paper significantly, the authors should revisit METHODOLOGY section; I suggest two methods: 1) literature review (this will enable authors to identify the missing gaps). 2) Cross-sectional study through the use of questionnaire (already conducted).	The literature review has been revised.