

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	International STD Research & Reviews
Manuscript Number:	Ms_I-SRR_101787
Title of the Manuscript:	SOCIAL CULTURAL NORMS ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY MARRIAGES AMONG ADOLESCENTS: CASE STUDY OF CHADIZA DISTRICT, EASTERN PROVINCE OF ZAMBIA
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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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 (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)
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p> <p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p> <p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p> <p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p> <p>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>YES</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>The authors may make the following revisions</p> <p>1. Introduction</p> <p>The introduction should include some aspects of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Education, Health and Child rights (specifically the girl child) as well as sexual reproductive health rights.</p> <p>The authors could also include international frameworks, protocols and provisions on the rights of the child and frameworks and provisions on child protection or sexual reproductive rights as stipulated in Zambian law.</p> <p>2. Methodology</p> <p>In their methodology the authors should specify in their first paragraph the specific study area where households were sampled from and how households were identified. Was there for example some procedures like Geographical Information System Coordinate mapping used? Was randomization used to sample households and perhaps justification for targeting the specific study area in eastern Zambia such as prevalence of harmful cultural practices and social cultural norms leading to such.</p> <p>Authors should also justify not using focus group discussions and interviews as data collection tools for a study that inclines more toward qualitative typology despite being mixed method. FGDs and interviews could have tapped on respondent perspectives, opinions, perceptions, attitudes in a way a questionnaire unstructured or otherwise could not.</p>	

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	<p>3. Findings</p> <p>In the findings, Table 2. Entitled – Preferred age of marriage of respondents by Gender; the column titled Total should read Optimal because total does not make sense. Similarly, in Table 3. Replace Total with Optimal for the same reason.</p> <p>4. Discussion</p> <p>In their discussion, authors could highlight the negative effects of harmful cultural practices such as pulling the flaps of the vagina. Perhaps linkages could be drawn with other harmful practices such as vaginal mutilation in some quarters of sub-Saharan Africa and their psychological impact on women and girls, trauma and other long lasting emotional effects.</p> <p>The impacts on the health of the girl child with respect to early sexual debut and early marriages could also be highlighted. Effects such as vulnerability to STIs including HIV and AIDS, vulnerability to cervical cancer later in the girl's life due to early sexual debut and exposure to the human papilloma virus (HPV). Maybe other associated health risks could also be mentioned such as teenage pregnancy related complications such as risk of dying, vulnerability to obstetric fistula due to the rupture of the birth canal because the pelvis is immature and such other risk as calcium deficiency and anaemia.</p> <p>There is also need in the discussion section for authors to recommend potential interventions or unravel interventions that could or are being implemented to address some of the challenges linked to harmful cultural practices i.e., from a health perspective, educational perspective or otherwise; albeit without precluding the fact that not all is bad with our culture as Africans. Our traditions, norms and values actually shape and inform our identity as a people and the curriculum in our rights of passage could be reconciled to tally with modern dynamics whilst still being used as a pathway to adult values and sustaining our heritage.</p> <p>5. References</p> <p>References are recent and not in error.</p>	
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PART 2:

	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>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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