

## Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Research Journal of Arts &amp; Social Sciences</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_ARJASS_85104
Title of the Manuscript:	Reported profiles of women who have sex with women in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
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:

(<https://www.journalarjass.com/index.php/ARJASS/editorial-policy> )

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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)
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The topic is research-worthy, pertinent and apposite, especially since it addresses health and the general well-being of a population often stigmatized in the society.</li><li>2. Since the work has some empirical implication, so research question(s) or hypothesis or both should be included in the work and they would usually be in consonance with the aims of the study as already spelt out.</li><li>3. Apart from drawing results from opinion/interviews/comments of participants/respondents, there would be more extensive acceptance if some of your results are culled from analysis carried out with inferential statistics</li><li>4. I suggest that the population involved in the study be provided numerically, that is, the estimated population of Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke districts?</li><li>5. How many women and other respondents partook in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), in-depth interviews (IDIs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) used in the methodology?</li><li>6. Finally, if you review your literature again and carefully draw on your theoretical approach, this work would be a pointer to understanding Homosexuality in Tanzania and most especially provide a framework for the reading of women and sexuality studies in the country.</li><li>7. <b>Comments on the manuscript</b>- A brief historical perspective of homosexuality in Tanzania would enrich this work.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Thank you for the comment.</li><li>2. I have included the research question as suggested; Therefore we sought to answer the following research question; what are the socio-economic characteristics, sexual and health behaviours of the WSW in Dar es Salaam?</li><li>3. We agree that inferential analysis would bring richness to our study. This is a limitation and we have suggested further research in the last paragraph of the discussion as follows: We recommend a larger study to measure health outcomes in WSW and possibly a comparative analysis of health outcomes between women who have sex exclusively with men, women who have sex with both women and men, and women who have sex exclusively with women. A comparative analysis may shed light on health outcome disparities between the WSW and the general population. For disparities discovered, effective and efficient socio-economic and behavioural interventions could be devised to close the inequality in health outcomes.</li><li>4. The estimated population is included as follows; It was conducted in Ilala (with 1,220,611 inhabitants according to 2012 census), Kinondoni (with 1,775,049 inhabitants according to 2012 census) and Temeke (with 1,368,881 inhabitants according to 2012 census) districts in Dar-es-Salaam Region; the population in Dar es Salaam is estimated to grow at 5% annually [20], therefore the population may be 5% higher in each study district.</li><li>5. We have included information about the participants in our qualitative research as follows: We conducted 1 FGD with 6 WSW; 3 KIIs with the community leaders; and 11 IDIs with WSW.</li><li>6. Thank for the comment. I have added the following description; We applied inductive thematic analysis where open coding approach was adopted using participants' language. We adopted grounded theory approach in the analysis because our research topic was novel; it had not been studied in Tanzania- nothing was known about the socio-economic characteristics, sexual and health behaviours of the WSW. We applied grounded theory to find out WSW's sexual and health behaviour, as well as their socio-economic characteristics which may explain why WSW behave in certain ways [24, 25].</li><li>7. I have extended the introduction to add more information and literature on the topic as follows; Homosexuality or same sex relationships are socially stigmatized and illegal in Tanzania. Same sex relationships are criminalized and offenders can be punished by law with jail time or fine[1]. Homosexuals or people practicing same sex relationships engage in risky sexual behaviours that put them at high risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) especially infection with HIV[2–4]. As a result homosexuals are categorized into a group called key populations (KPs) when it comes to HIV infection. KPs commonly engage in sex with high risk partners and are a bridge population for transmission of STIs to the general population; this is because they have sexual relations with people</li></ol>

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		in the general population as well[3, 4]. KP's rights to health care is recognised especially based on their vulnerability to STIs[5, 6]. Over the past few years quite a number of public health research and interventions have focused on the men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers (FSW) and injecting drug users (IDUs)[3, 7–9]; however public health research or interventions among women who have sex with women (WSW) is almost non-existent[8].
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		

PART 2:

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