The study was limited by its small sample size; consequently, its power to detect satisfaction and comfort is also limited. Due to selection bias it is not clear if similar study results could be replicated in the general population. In addition, recruitment of women from family planning clinic populations may bias results towards those who are already willing to use a contraceptive method. However, the favourable results point toward the acceptance of this product, especially among couples in stable partnerships that value the benefits of female barrier contraception.

A contraceptive effectiveness study evaluating use of the SILCS diaphragm with contraceptive gel is currently underway in the USA with the results expected in 2010. Additional research evaluating service delivery options for a single-size cervical barrier device would also help clarify the feasibility of adding the SILCS diaphragm to reproductive health programmes worldwide.

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Competing interests
PATH designed the SILCS diaphragm with funding from USAID through the CONRAD Program.

References


BOOK REVIEW


Readers of a certain age will remember the publication of the original Joy of Sex – a book ahead of its time in the 1970s. Highly graphical with clear explicit information, it was updated in the 1990s, and it now has been fully revised, updated and refocused to meet the needs of women and men in today’s contemporary world. Alex Comfort, the doyen of sex, was committed to providing good information to “undo some of the mischief caused by the guilt, misinformation and myth, misinformation and guilt still surround issues to do with sex, the prevalence of sexual ignorance and problems is high and, sadly, access to good help, understanding and support remains low. This book does deliver what it says on the cover – it addresses the joys of sex, to enable couples to find out more about themselves, their desires and their needs. This is not a book omits important organisations such as Cancerbackup and The Institute of Psychosexual Medicine.

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