Reviewer's report

Title: Survival and health status of a cohort of tuberculosis patients in rural Lao PDR

Version: 1 Date: 20 June 2009

Reviewer: Shampa Anupurba

Reviewer's report:

The article titled “Survival and health status of a cohort of tuberculosis patients in rural Lao PDR” may be accepted after essential minor revisions.

Comment 1. Background section; Para 1, Line 2: were to be inserted after which.

Comment 2. Background section; Para 2, Line 2: Started in place of starts.

Comment 3. Background section; Para 2, Line 4: Acid fast in place of acrid fast.

Comment 4. Methods section; Para 2, Line 2: The line “The large part.......................” May be replaced with The population was predominantly poor, illiterate and belongs to ethnic minority.

Comment 5. Methods section; Para 2, Line 3: as to be inserted after estimated.

Comment 6. Methods section; Para 2, Line 5: statement may be restructured as fifth most frequent cause of hospitalization.

Comment 7. Methods section; Para 2, Line 9: visit to the district hospital.

Comment 8. Lab and field procedure section; Para 1, Line 6: Sent instead of send. And delete established and.

Comment 9. Results section; Para 1, Line 1: patients were included, of whom 159 were cases of pulmonary TB.

Comment 10. Results section; Para 1, Line 5: Delete of and were in place of are.

Comment 11. Results section; Para 2, Line 4: delete a after lower.

Comment 12. Results section; Para 3, Line 3: than instead of that.

Comment 13. Results section; Para 7, Line 1: of to be inserted after observance.

Comment 14. Discussion section; Para 1, Line 6-7: “.............village visits in ten of the 80 villages facilitated in diagnosing 5 new TB.............”

Comment 15. Discussion section; Para 2, Line 7-8: Last sentence of the para may be omitted.

Comment 16. Discussion section; Para 5, Line 3: …the survey gives insight to
the……………twice than that of …………”

Comment 17. Discussion section; Para 7, Line 9: .. future investigation……

Comment 18 : Figure legends: Figure 1-2: Legend mentioned in the end of MS is not the same as given along with the figures.

Comment 19 : Figure legends: Figure 1: chart may be inserted after Flow.

Comment 20. Figure 1. BK may be explained as a foot note.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests