Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of self-reported tuberculosis, knowledge about tuberculosis transmission and its determinants among adults in India: a nation-wide cross-sectional household survey

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Reviewer: Ludwig Apers

Reviewer’s report:

Although this article is scientifically sound and doesn't suffer from major flaws, I consider it as of too little scientific value to be published in an international journal. The content is not very innovative and doesn't seem to contribute much in terms of policy changes.

1. Major compulsory revisions

   The main critique I have is the limited notion of 'correct knowledge of TB transmission': whoever answered that TB can be spread from one person to another through 'sharing utensils' or through sharing clothes/bed/towel was categorised as suffering from 'misconceptions'. This is quite a drastic dichotomy: I don't think an occupational therapist or infectiologist would dare to say that one can never get TB through sharing forks or knives with a TB patient or by sleeping in the same bed.

   'Sharing food' suffers from the same confusion: it has been proven in South Africa that sharing beer mugs in 'beer outlets' or 'shebeens', should be considered as a risk factor for TB infection.

   The prevalence data on the contrary are 'comparable to existing reports on TB burden in India', which could be a sign of the fair knowledge of TB symptoms by the community. The authors are not conclusive in the discussion part though: on one hand 'there may have been an over-estimation of self reported TB', and a paragraph further 'it is not clear from our analysis, if there was under-reporting because the questions were not specific to PTB and EPTB.'

Minor essential revisions

   The text suffers from poor grammatical constructions, such as the almost systematic omission of articles and the wrong use of prepositions.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.