Reviewer's report

Title: Neonatal care in rural Karnataka: healthy and harmful practices, the potential for change

Version: 1 Date: 8 February 2009

Reviewer: Ramesh Bhat.Y

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors attempted to explore the ignorance about care and harmful practices regarding newborn care and found that they are most prevalent among the older generation and tribal population. This is a well known fact. The authors mention and defend about the gap in time between collection of the quantitative and qualitative data as a weakness, but in reality, this could have seriously affected the study. It is likely that the harmful practices could have come down significantly in the recent years. It is true that fast pace of change is very much in need.

1. In Introduction-expand MDG.

2. In the results section, the population caste could be deleted. Broader groups and their characteristics are enough.

3. In the results section, the interview sections could be minimized as they are partly duplicating the text.

3. Table 1

Mentioning of broader categories of caste is sufficient. (Remove the subdivisions/Actual caste)

What 14-19 years means? (this includes illegal age groups).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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