Reviewer’s report

Title: Perinatal outcomes in a South Asian setting with high rates of low birth weight

Version: 2 Date: 24 November 2008

Reviewer: Archana N Shah

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for asking me to review the revised version. The new version reads better and addresses some issues raised. However, I have concerns as follows:

Major concern:

I question the validity of using the Canadian growth standards to make concluding remarks on the very high/extremely high rates of fetal growth restrictions in KB. It is not surprising that the SGA rates were relatively low when the Indian Standard published in 1971 was used for classification. It would be important to use a more recent fetal growth standard from India and reclassify instead of concluding that “SGA rates are implausibly low under Indian Standard” Pg 12.

SGA rates based on Canadian standards did not show significant decline, while those based on Indian standard showed a significant decline Pg 9. I don’t believe it is the authors’ intention to show that there was no change in the SGA rates inspite of all the interventions provided under the project.

Minor Comments

1- Accuracy of gestational age based on menstrual data:

I understand the limitation of the study, however it would be unfair to refer to the Pune, India study (Ref 51), without clearly indicating in the text that the information is from a study on women seeking early abortions.

2- Denominator for calculation of rates:

Please indicate in the text that the denominators used for the calculating LBW, SGA and preterm birth rates are live-births.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.