Reviewer's report

Title: Childhood disability and socio-economic circumstances in low and middle income countries: knowledge review

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2011

Reviewer: Jitendra Sahu

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

In this paper Douglas et al presents review on childhood disability and socio-economic circumstances in low and middle income countries.

While the manuscript is well-written and the overall logistics and implementation of the review is nicely done and well-presented, I have major concerns on selection of unfocused research question. Childhood disabilities have a broad range extending from sensory dysfunction to motor disability. Definition varies in different geographical area. Similarly, socioeconomic circumstances are also very non-specific. Therefore, it was expected that results of the review may not be conclusive.

Authors should also clarify why did they restrict search from 1990 onward? It may be an important limitation.

In page 7, para 2, authors mentioned that two researchers assessed studies. Authors should clarify whether assessments were independent and if yes, whether they had good agreement or not.

Authors should also address the issue of grading of severity of disability with socio-economic status.

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.