Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence and risk factors of preterm birth in a rural Bangladeshi cohort

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2014

Reviewer: Vishwajeet Kumar

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Minor:
1. Figure I - Pregnancy terminations is inappropriately used. Suggest: pregnancy outcome.

2. Page 8 - data entry was done using an automated. Not sure if the word "automated" is correctly used.

Major:
1. The parent study was an evaluation of an intervention through CHWs trained for 12 weeks and thus the data for this analyses is drawn from the intervention as well as the control arm. It would be important to understand from the authors what were the interventions that could have potentially impact prematurity and how does it affect the overall analyses and its limits the interpretation of the results. Did the authors analyze by arm and observe any difference between them vis-a-vis the risk factors that they have reported.

2. Since majority of preterm births were late (55.1%) and one of the mainstays of this paper is the burden of preterm births (22.3%) it would be important to record both within the abstract its limitations vis-a-vis the method of determining LMP. There is enough evidence and reasons to suggest that LMP based reports are prone to errors and this error needs to be reported as well. This will significantly impact the reported burden of prematurity in the population.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'