Reviewer's report

**Title:** Randomised trials relevant to mental health conducted in low and middle-income countries: survey of studies published in 1991, 1995 and 2000 and assessment of their relevance

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 June 2006

**Reviewer:** Shekhar Saxena

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**
This area is very important and urgently needs information.

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**Major Compulsory Revisions** (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The eligibility criteria are not entirely clear. "mental health problem" needs to be better defined. does it include ICD-10 mental disorders? which else? will substance abuse be included? will HIV or violence victims be included, since they are at risk of developing a mental health problem?

Accessibility- availability on Medline includes abstract or the full text?

some recent key references are missing. these include-

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**Minor Essential Revisions** (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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**Discretionary Revisions** (which the author can choose to ignore)

It may be useful to compare number of research trials with number and type of human resources for mental health within the countris. data from WHO's Mental Health Atlas can be used for this.

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’