Reviewer's report

Title: Analysis of some socio-demographic factors related to malaria in Bangladesh

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2012

Reviewer: Murari Prof. Das

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1 Abstract

1.1 Text: Method: First line: The KAP survey was conducted in areas of six different malaria endemic districts………

Comment: The title does not match with work. Authors have not analysed socio-demographic factors related to malaria – as a disease but knowledge about malaria. Hence appropriate Title should be: Socio-demographic factors influencing knowledge, attitude and practice regarding malaria in Bangladesh.

1.2 Text: Conclusion: Health education program could be effective in improving the knowledge of the rural community.

Suggestion: As this is not the finding of authors they can not conclude as it is. First they should conclude their findings after that they may suggest this, on the basis of their finding.

2 Main Text

Methods:

2.1 Text: First paragraph: The KAP survey was conducted in areas of six different malaria endemic districts of Bangladesh from July to October 2011 with the help of structured questionnaires and observation checklist. The area of studies was divided in two zones (area 1 and area 2) on the basis of malaria infection and geographical conditions.

Question: In this section please describe how you had fixed your sample size for each district- on the basis of population size/ on the basis of endemic condition? As you had not covered each and every house of any village - how you had selected the house to be sampled? As also indicated in the table 1, sample size has varied from district to district- describe the basis of variation of sample size from district to district?

Results
2.2 Association of malaria with practices of the respondents

Comment: Starting from this point number of respondents have been changed-authors should explain this in method section and caption and discussion should be modified accordingly.

Discussion:
Paragraph-4

2.3 Text: Before the introduction of treated nets, country is reporting on average 50,000 confirmed malaria cases with and 450 malaria deaths annually (WHO 2010). But rate of malaria transmission and subsequent morbidity lowered down to 50% by the use of ITNs [8-11]. Mortality came down from 450 to as low as 37 in the year 2010 (WHO 2010) in Bangladesh.

Comment: First line and third lines are true for Bangladesh but in second line they have given reference of other different countries without clarifying it. Hence the second line should be placed below with clarifying respective countries. In the third line authors should clarify mortality dropped from 450 (which year??) to 37 (which year??).

Paragraph-4

2.4 Text: It may be either malaria vectors of Bangladesh have developed resistance to Deltamethrin, the insecticide used in the treated nets [12].

Comment: This reference is neither from Bangladesh nor Anopheles gambiae is the major species of Bangladesh. Even if authors want to keep this line they should modify the sentence accordingly. Please provide evidence from your country.

Conclusion:

2.5 Text: 1st paragraph

Comment: General theory has been given. It is not finding of authors. Authors should conclude their findings in the first paragraph. On the basis of that they might give suggestion in the second paragraph.

2.6 Comment on Tables: Table 1 to 3 number of sample for area 1 is 364 and for area 2 is 184 while for table 4 and 5 number of sample for area 1 is 169 and for area 2 is 41. Explain the change of sample size in method section and related places.

Minor Essential revisions

Main Text

Background

Paragraph 3:
3.1 Text: …..training of the community of local health assistants.
Comment: Is there any community where health assistants reside? Clarify meaning of the sentence?

3.2 Text: In a developing country like Bangladesh, malaria has the potentiality to cause great morbidity and mortality and occasional outbreaks.
Suggestion: Here authors should mention the two species of plasmodium found in Bangladesh and out of them which species cause mortality and outbreaks.

Methods:

3.3 Text: First line: The KAP survey was conducted in areas of six different malaria endemic districts of Bangladesh from July to October 2011.
Suggestion: Either modify the title of the study according to your work or modify related lines.

Data collection:

First line:

3.4 Text: The residents of the study areas were asked about malaria and its transmission mechanism, vector mosquito and its control.
Suggestion: In the background section authors should mention the four major anopheles reported from Bangladesh and out of them which is the most potential vector for hill and which one for plain.

First paragraph:

3.5 Text: Information regarding socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge and practices regarding malaria prevention and control, treatment seeking behavior and use of antimalarial drugs by the people were collected through structured interview schedule.
Suggestion: Modify the title of the study according to your work.

Results

First paragraph:

3.6 In this survey, a total of 468 individuals from the equal number of households were interviewed. Maximum respondents (n=199, 42.5%) were interviewed from malaria prone hill districts (area 1). Rest of the respondents interviewed from other two low malaria endemic plain districts bordering Meghalaya states of India (Table 1).
Suggestion: This should be in method section under Caption Sample size. Please also explain why sample size of area 2 was comparatively small.

Demographic characteristics of the respondents

3.7 It was found that 46.4 % and 41% of respondents’ family had malaria within
the past one year in area 1 and area 2 respectively (Table 2).
Comment: Not found in table 2.

Malaria awareness and practices

First paragraph:
3.8 It was rather strange that only few people (19.5%) of the area 1 did mention that ITNs/LLINs can prevent malaria although such nets were distributed to them from 2007 (WHO, 2010).
Comment: Reference not found in the reference section.

Discussion

Paragraph-4
3.9 Text: It is more likely so, as reports coming out that very few mosquitoes, as low as 20% were died in the recently carried out bioassay tests.
Comment: Give the reference.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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