Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and trends of the diabetes epidemic in South Asia: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 28 February 2012

Reviewer: Kaushik Pandit

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. How to account for the changing definitions of diabetes and pre-diabetes has influenced the prevalence data, and that might have affected the secular trend?
2. The large degree of difference shown in table 2 probably cannot merely be because of place of residence, as the neighbouring countries harbour populations which are largely similar in phenotypic, genotypic and lifestyle patterns. Hence the relevance of the table needs to be reworked.
3. In page 14 detailed discussion on dietary pattern is beyond the purview of the article as that particular aspect has not been measured by the meta-analytical tools in the study.

Minor Essential Revisions

In some places the word Type II diabetes have been used, which however should be replaced with the standard WHO directive "Type 2 diabetes".

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.