Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic inequalities in risk factors for noncommunicable diseases in low-income and middle-income countries

Version: 2 Date: 30 April 2012

Reviewer: Anand Krishnan

Reviewer's report:

Compulsory Revisions

Abstract:
Methods: Confounding factors that were included in adjustment may be listed.

The slope and relative index of inequality may be described of reader to understand what it means. The result in abstract incidentally does not use these indices, apparently. It might be better to align the two.

Conclusion: to add “non-communicable disease” to risk factor prevalence.

Main Article:

From Ethics point of view, it may be clarified whether at the time of taking consent, it was informed to the respondent that the data will be pooled across globally and such an analysis would be done.

It is not clear what * in table 2 means – one would assume statistical significance based on convention. If yes, how was it estimated.

Discussion is currently the weakest part of the paper. Discussion need to substantially revised to focus on
i) analysis of pathways through which SES would act on the risk factors based on review.
ii) And how this explains the presence of SES gradient in some and not all risk factors. And difference in results for education and wealth index.
iii) Why addition of additional confounders change the results in a big way. Why present model 1 when model two takes care of more confounders unless it helps in understanding the issues.
iv) What are the implications of these results to public health functionaries/ policy makers

Minor Revisions

Appropriate key words to include social determinants, inequity or inequality may be added.
To provide appropriate reference for Stata 11®

Descriptive Revision

**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’