Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the gap between hand washing knowledge and practices in Bangladesh: a cross-sectional comparative study

Version: 7 Date: 23 January 2013

Reviewer: Robert Aunger

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

I was hoping to see additional detail with respect to the content of the intervention used in this study, to aid others reading about the study. What were the five messages delivered about hand washing? Did you just say 'please wash your hands before meals?' or were creative materials used as well? How were the messages delivered (e.g., via display of poster, just personal interaction, was a film shown?) Similarly, how was 'awareness building' on the four other target behaviours conducted? What specific messages were conveyed and how were they conveyed? Through demonstration, one-to-one in the household, or just talked about in a group or some other method?

Further, why are there repeated meetings with the same villagers? Is the same thing done with each contact?

As I say, these are discretionary, but inclusion of this information would be helpful in assessing the nature of the intervention.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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