Reviewer's report

Title: Public health research output from India is very inadequate

Version: 1 Date: 15 October 2004

Reviewer: Vic Neufeld

Reviewer's report:

General

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

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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)

I have 2 suggestions:
1. In the discussion section, where they speak about "demand-supply-environment", the authors may wish be a little more encouraging, by citing some examples that do represent increased awareness to the need for more public health research. An example would be IndiaCLEN (the regional chapter of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network or INCLEN). This good group of researchers, though mostly clinicians, are increasingly aware of the importance of public health research. The most recent IndiaCLEN meeting was on the theme "Partnerships for Public Health". [More details available via the IndiaCLEN website]. Another example are the explorations within the ICMR for strengthening health systems and policy research.
2. The authors may wish to refer to the series of articles about health research in South Asia that appeared in the BMJ. An example is the article by Sadana R et al. "Health Research in South Asia" BMJ 2004:328:826-30

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
none