Reviewer’s report

Title: HIV prevention programmes for female sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, India: outputs, cost and efficiency

Version: 1 Date: 18 August 2005

Reviewer: Anneke van den Hoek

Reviewer’s report:

General
This study is a nice attempt to quantify the outputs, costs and efficiency of HIV prevention programmes in India. The number of contacts provided, in particular by peer educators, appeared to be very variable. As the authors discuss further development of sex worker programmes should also include assessment of the optimal number of contacts and time spent with sex workers. Only then programmes can be made effective (and efficacy is what we really want to know). But this study is an important first step.

Some minor essential comments:
page 7: Cost data: the costs of diagnostic tests for STI do not seem to be included (only consultation fees and medication)
page 10: A total of 33941 female sex workers..... Out of an estimated number of ??
page 10: clarify in the methods section how the time spent per contact has been calculated (actual measurements or number of contacts per full time equivalents?
page 12: indicate when data are not shown

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests