Reviewer's report

**Title:** Review of the available essential health information in India

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 January 2009

**Reviewer:** Debra Revere

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**
By identifying the gaps between what health information is available and what is needed, this paper adds to a better understanding of the types of publicly available essential health information in India and the adequacy of that information for informing India's development and improvement of essential health services.

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**Major Compulsory Revisions**

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**Minor Essential Revisions**
The authors do a good job in describing their inclusion and exclusion criteria and data extraction methods. However, omitted is a description of the search method and number of information sources retrieved so the results can be replicated. I would have liked to see a general flow chart illustrating the number of resources retrieved from each method (PubMed, government and NGO sites, secondary searching of references), collated, duplicates removed, and numbers excluded.

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**Discretionary Revisions**
Providing the URL to references within Table 1 will make access to these resources easier for the reader.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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