Reviewer's report

Title: Review of the available essential health information in India

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2009

Reviewer: Srinath K. Reddy

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This paper provides a useful overview of the nature and information content of different data sources which provide information on key demographic and health indicators in India. It helps to identify the gaps in available and accessible health related information. Such gaps relate to limited information content provided by different data sources the nationally non-representative data in some datasets and especially the lack of district and sub-district level disaggregated data for multiple major health indicators. The paucity of data and the absence of representative data gathering systems for chronic disease burdens and risk factor levels in the population constitute a critical gap to which the authors draw particular attention.

While the paper does a good job in documenting the gaps, it does not comment on the duplicate sources of information on the same indicators and how much redundancy may be avoided to optimally utilize scarce resources while strengthening health information systems.

Overall, the paper addresses an important public health issue in India and merits acceptance for publication in your journal.