Reviewer's report

Title: Insufficient quality of sputum submitted for tuberculosis diagnosis and associated factors, in Klaten district, Indonesia

Version: 2 Date: 20 December 2008

Reviewer: Nagamiah Selvakumar

Reviewer's report:

General comments:

The rationale of associating characteristics of TB suspects such as age, sex, marital status, income, knowledge of signs and symptoms, perceived seriousness of TB, perceived ability to provide sputum and accessibitty of health centre, with the quality of sputum is not understandable.

The assessment of quality of sputum by interviewing the TB patients after a gap of 6 months may not always provide accurate information. The time gap is too long that a patient can forget to provide the answers expected. Moreover, patients can avoid telling negative attitudes of the health providers.

There was also an inherent bias in collecting the information after the modification of the form TB05.

Minor essential revisions

Page 14 Table 2. 2nd item; it should be 3 sputum samples and not two samples as written.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No.