Reviewer's report

Title: Care Seeking Behaviour for Childhood Illness- A Questionnaire Survey in Western Nepal

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2006

Reviewer: pavitra mohan

Reviewer's report:

General: Understanding of careseeking practices for sick children in an area with high levels of infant mortality is important to design child health programs. in order to design program, followign information is required:

What proportion of families seek care outside home for childhood illnesses? How does careseeking differ for different illnesses / symptoms?

What are the different sources from which families seek care?

What do families consider in making decisions related to seeking care?

What are the common beliefs related to childhood illnesses: perceived etiology, perception of severity, perceived efficacy of the available treatment? How do these beliefs impact on care-seeking.

While the study provides some information on the first two, it does not offer much insights into others

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

1. Methodology:

--provide upfront a model of care-seeking used to identify factors that could affect care-seeking.

--- All "independent variables" used have been reduced to dichotomous: not appropriate since most determinants do not work that way. pl cahnge them to either larger number of categories or use as continuous

--while it is mentioned in the conclusions that "when perceived as serious, mothers sought care more often" perception of severity has not ben treated as independent variable. Factor in perception of severity in your model.

--gender inequity has been mentioned in discussion as an important issue in study area. need to factort that in as an independent variable.

Outcome variable: While "appropriate care" has been used as the outcome variable, "promptness" of care has not been used--please use "promptness" and "appropriate" and "prompt" as other outcome variables

RESULTS:

There needs to be a table on background profile of the participants, by outcome

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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)
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests