Reviewer's report

Title: Synthesis of community-based rehabilitation project evaluation reports: (1) overview and main findings of a proof-of-concept study

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2007

Reviewer: Sunil Deepak

Reviewer's report:

General
1. There are two articles. One relating to the methodology of conducting the study and second dealing with major outcomes. The two can be combined together to make one global article, even if it would be little longer.

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)
1. The research identifies 51 nodes or themes from 37 evaluation reports and comes to conclusions about the areas seen as important by the evaluators. Thus areas such as training, finances, management, etc. seem to have much more importance for CBR projects compared to areas such as role of DPOs, role of CBR workers, family involvement, etc.

Though there is a table giving schematic information about each evaluation report considered for this study, it would still be useful to reflect on the point of view represented in the evaluation reports. For example, if the majority of evaluation reports come from projects funded by international donors and have a time-limited period to spend the funds and complete all the activities, I would expect them to be much more attentive towards management issues, booking, accounting, etc.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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 have no competing financial interests. However, 3-4 of the evaluation reports used for this study are from projects supported by the organisation where I work.