Author's response to reviews

Title: Child health care and the role of community health workers in rural Mali

Authors:

Freddy Perez (Freddy.perez@isped.u-bordeaux2.fr)
Hamady Ba (yerdeba@yahoo.fr)
Sayed B Dastagire (sayedgd@yahoo.com)
Mathias Altmann (altmannmathias@yahoo.fr)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
BMC-Public Health
The Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to submit on behalf of the authors this original unpublished manuscript “The role of community health workers and child health care in rural Mali” to the Journal to the journal BMC – Public Health for the section research article (word count of the text: 4618).

This paper is an original work, has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. As cited in the text, the study has been subject to ethical approval.

In a context of human resource crisis in resource-poor settings, the role of community health workers (CHWs) in the provision of basic health care and the access of health services for rural populations are priorities. Our study is among the few to provide information on community health programmes in West Africa. We report on the performance of CHWs in the framework of community health interventions that have been and are being implemented in rural Mali. This study gives the possibility to better understand the contribution of CHWs concerning knowledge and practice of child illness at the house-hold level and the potential barriers and facilitating factors linked to this.

All authors have read and approved the manuscript for publication. I am guarantor of the paper. I hope to have convinced you of the interest of our report. I attach the full manuscript. Looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Freddy PEREZ MD, DTM&H, MSc.
Associate Professor