Reviewer's report

Title: On the frontline of primary health care: The profile of community health agents in rural Quechua communities in Peru

Version: 1 Date: 16 January 2006

Reviewer: Victor Zamora

Reviewer’s report:

General

The authors must improve the results section. The way the results are presented must be improved. For example: “three groups of community health agents were studied (…) describe its commonalities and the main differences.

Although the author recognizes that the literature related to community health workers is abundant I think he has improve the selection of his bibliographic references and make them more relevant to the particular issue of this article.

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

Results, par. 3. there must be a mistake with the figures used for the literacy rate among community health promoters. If this is not the case the sentence “a low educational level among the 3 groups of community health agents was observed” would not be correct. I think the whole paragraph should be revised.

I would suggest including a paragraph describing the profile of the female community health agents.

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)

Regarding the methodology the author must give more information about the project he used as his source of information. It would be important to include some information about the levels of poverty among this communities.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests