Reviewer's report

Title: Workforce analysis using data mining and linear regression to understand HIV/AIDS prevalence patterns

Version: 1 Date: 13 February 2007

Reviewer: pascal zurn

Reviewer's report:

General

This article addresses an important issue which is the role of health workforce in the achievement of MDGs. It clearly shows the importance of health workforce.

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

The article uses two different statistical approaches in this article. It is not very clear why two different approaches are used in this article. It would be better to expand on one approach (better explanation of the methodology) and better presentation and discussions of the results (especially for the regression analysis, if this approach is chosen).

In the context of this analysis, it would seem more pertinent to use HIV/AIDS prevalence than death rates. In effect, there is a time gap between the moment the person is infected and the time the person passes away. The current model does really not capture this. In other words, in regions with a low provision of treatment, it is likely that the current HIV/AIDS mortality rates are explained to a large extent by past levels of health workforce rather than current levels.

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 importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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