Reviewer's report

Title: Experience with a 'social model' of capacity building: the Peoples-uni

Version: 2 Date: 21 March 2009

Reviewer: Babatunde Ipaye

Reviewer's report:

Review of article: peoples Uni

The paper does not fall strictly within the scope of the questions in your guideline. The paper is a descriptive one, describing a new programme in Public Health designed for capacity building in resource scarce situations. Using your guidelines the following applicable questions are treated.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?: The issue treated in the paper is new. The author defined the scope adequately and in an easy to understand manner.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?: The method of selection is well described, the training procedure well explained. Those interested in mounting similar programmes in the future can easily replicate following the steps described here.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled? I would have loved to see a more explicit data display of registered applicants, country by country and showing the gender distribution. There is need for information on the courses; are there compulsory courses? And what is the success rate so far? Data like these and others will help others make up their mind about the programme.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? I think so.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? As noted above there is paucity of data to support discussions. Author could provide more data to support conclusions etc.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Relatively so.

7. Is the writing acceptable? It is.

I sincerely think the paper is publishable for purposes of providing information to readers. However there is need to explain more what social model of capacity building means, are there other models, what are they and how do they compare with the social model? Why select social model above the others and what makes it more suitable for resource poor areas?
In my opinion, the paper is well written, it is worth publishing and I suspect others may be interested in the information contained therein. I have no interest whatsoever in the author, the organization and owe them nothing.

Professor Babatunde Ipaye

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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'