Author's response to reviews

Title: Advancing the application of systems thinking in health: A realist evaluation of a capacity building programme for district managers

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
To,
The Editor
Health Research Policy and Systems

Sir/Madam,

Greetings from Bangalore.

We are hereby submitting a manuscript titled “Advancing the application of systems thinking in health: A realist evaluation of a capacity building programme for district managers”. This manuscript is part of the thematic series titled “Advancing the application of systems thinking in health” being coordinated by the WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research with Taghreed Adam as the contact person.

In this paper, we have described a realist evaluation of a capacity building programme for improving the performance of health managers in a local health system at the district level in southern India. The realist evaluation approach is relatively new within the public health evaluation community and is well suited for evaluation of complex interventions within local health systems. In showing the application of realist evaluation to a capacity building programme, we have shown how this method could be used to improve our understanding of local health systems, which are complex and adaptive.

We believe that this submission will be of importance to evaluation practitioners and public health researchers. It will also be used to advance the need for strategic planning and management of local health systems within India. We hope that the manuscript will be considered for review and possible publication in your journal.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

NS Prashanth