Author's response to reviews

Title: Educating the Power: HIV Policy and Parliamentarians of Pakistan

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Version: 2 Date: 10 July 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

Editors:

Thank you very much for allowing our manuscript for coming so far. In contrast to our earlier submission, we have brought about some major changes. The primary being that the article has been formulated with keeping the guidelines of a commentary in mind. The editorial suggestion that we incorporate the role of health research and policy into the manuscript has been addressed throughout the writing. A whole new paragraph (Para 4 in the Discussion section) has been devised to address specifically this query.

Reviewer 1:

Thank you very much for your remarks. No major changes were requested. As for your 2 concerns:
- Typographical errors in the manuscript have been rectified
- References have been updated i.e. UNAIDS estimates have been updated to latest available figures (Reference 4 in manuscript)

Reviewer 2:

Thank you very much for your remarks. The article has been revised to give it a more focused direction. As advised, the whole article has been modified into a commentary that addresses the crucial role of Pakistani Parliamentarians in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In this direction, the manuscript has been divided into 3 sections: Introduction, Discussion and Conclusions. As for your suggestion, that we gauge the effect of any change in devised policies. That is a fine suggestion but so far the framework for the National Policy is still under deliberation, and so at this stage, it is not possible to gauge that effect. Perhaps a few years from now, as a second piece in continuation with this article, once the Policy has been implemented, we could be in a better position to address this question. As for the focus on Larkana, as you kindly mentioned, that importance has been duly removed, adding in more information about the context of the Larkana example usage (in Para 7 of the Discussion section) and adding in more important cities (ie. Karachi, Lahore etc). An attempt has also been made to tighten the writing.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mohammad A. Rai