Reviewer's report

Title: HIV/AIDS Health Services Provision Reaching the Rural Poor in China: The Case of Three Counties

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Reviewer: Esme Fuller-Thomson

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Health Research Policy and Systems

Reviewer Comments

Article Title: 'HIV/AIDS Health Services Provision Reaching the Rural Poor in China: The Case of Three Counties'

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In the interest of full disclosure and as I clarified with the journal’s editorial assistant, Rosanna Gonzalez-McQuire, before I agreed to do this review, I have worked on another project with two of the authors of this paper. Ms Gonzalez-McQuire told that this would not make me ineligible to review this article.

My comments on this article follow:

The authors should be commended for writing an important analysis of a neglected topic:

Service delivery to rural individuals with HIV/AIDS in China. This article provides a substantial contribution to the literature through its review of the new policy and use of many key informant interviews. In general, the paper is well written and very interesting. The results section is particularly well organized and interesting.

A major point of confusion was the mix of names – sometimes by county, sometimes by province and sometimes by name of community service station. Please be consistent throughout.

I have a few suggestions to improve this paper.

The title could be clearer – perhaps “Decentralization of the Provision of Health Services to People Living with HIV/AIDS in Rural China”

The Abstract should mention the methodology- key informant interviews.

P. 1 – Second sentence of introduction is confusing. It would be better to replace the sentence with the following: The WHO estimates 650.000 Chinese are people living with HIV/AIDS.
Page 2 – Remove “For example, some scholars have evaluated that”. Start sentence with In 2005,

Page 3- …whenever you use acronym please write in full first time – eg.. ART page 3,
If acronyms are used 3 or fewer times consistently write in full instead (e.g. OI)
Page 3 – Last sentence paragraph 1 – ‘Care takes…’ is unclear.
Page 4 – insert ‘a’ before high “have a high HIV…”
Page 4 - Last sentence paragraph 1 is unclear. Did you mean “”These three counties provide case studies of the community-level…
Page 4 – Methods Sentence 1 “of a larger research project…:
Page 5 – instead of “later” use “hereafter ETDZ”. Cap on Technological
Page 5 – paragraph 2.
In-depth KEY INFORMANT interview
-Give n for each subgroup eg. Health providers (n=?)
-instead of “ some specific sets” use “a set”
-replace “around one” with “approximately one”
Page 6 – Table 1 please also list staff number and composition of clinics
Page 6 – elaborate on what you mean by “emergency responses”
Page 6 – instead of “drug users” do you mean “PLWHA who were infected through drug use”.
Page 7 – “higher” isn’t a clear term.
Page 9 – insurance not assurance
Page 10 –please clarify what you mean by “second-line”
Page 12 – re: competence – did you mean specialized training?
Page 15 – instead of “especially dedicated to” use “particularly”
Page 16 – Typos in Reference

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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'