Reviewer's report

Title: Association of programmatic factors with low contraceptive prevalence rates in a rural area of Bangladesh

Version: 1 Date: 19 November 2012

Reviewer: Roger Rochat

Reviewer's report:

Minor Compulsory revisions:
1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? YES, but the authors do not use the words of the title “programmatic factors” in tables.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? MOSTLY
   a. Methods should define “hard to reach unions” independent of findings
   b. Methods should define “programmatic factors”; do they include private vs. public sector delivery of contraceptives?
   c. For non-programmatic factors, such as age and education, what strategies may be needed to overcome the low acceptance by young and least well educated women? Are they equally responsive to strategies that work for older and better educated women?

3. Are the data sound and well controlled? YES
   Author should examine roles of private and public sector in reaching hard to reach unions. Recommendations for improving services in hard to reach unions should be guided by evidence on what works best for them.

Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? YES

p. 4 I’m not persuaded this statement is supportable by evidence: “Although the socio-cultural environment in Nabiganj sub-district is not remarkably different from other parts of the Bangladesh”. Does Nabiganj have higher proportion of hard to reach unions than rest of Bangladesh [“More than half of the unions (the smallest local government entities in Bangladesh) in Nabiganj are considered hard to reach”]? Certainly they are less likely to use bicycles.

1. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Overall good, but incomplete (see comment 3)

2. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? YES

3. Is the writing acceptable? Overall yes, but a few details need correcting. P. 10 “confine” should be “confirm” ; 6th “sentence” is incomplete: “In which their objective…”. Table 1 title should spell Nabiganj correctly and should indicate that the statistics are percentages. Figure 2 title should delete s at end of Contraceptive ....
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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