Reviewer’s report

Title: Community Health Education Improves Child Health Care in Rural Western China

Version: 0 Date: 06 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Anna A. Lartey,

Reviewer’s report:

Reviewer’s comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting study which involved an integrated child care interventions to promote growth and other child care practices. The findings are interesting and the use of an intervention and control groups in both time periods 2001 and 2005 is good design to assess the impact of the intervention. Reviewer however takes note that at both time points data were collected through a cross-sectional study and therefore the same children were NOT measured. Reviewer has the following comments and questions:

Abstract: The abstract provides no information on the specific intervention that were done. It is important to also mention the cross-sectional data collection used at both time points.

Methods: For each intervention village 16 children <3 years were selected randomly. What is the average population per village? Is 16 per village adequate to be representative of the village children under 3 years? How were the control communities selected and how were the children in the control communities selected? There is a disproportionately large number of children from the control communities 2673 vs 9031. Why?

Authors have adequately described the focused interventions received by the study communities. How different were the attention given in the control communities? The interventions used are essential actions that one would expect would be part of the health care for all children. What was the basic child health care received by the control communities? This question is relevant as some of the outcomes improved in both intervention and control groups- initiation of BF and child feeding index.

One of the strong points of the study was imbedding it in a government program which makes it feasible to be taken up and scaled up.

Concluding paragraph: The first 3 lines of the concluding statement is not relevant. The findings are interesting enough to warrant a strong concluding statement based on the results.

Any recommendations from the study to improve the regular government health care program?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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