Reviewer’s report

Title: Participatory Learning and Action to address type 2 diabetes in rural Bangladesh: a qualitative process evaluation

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Anil Bhansali

Reviewer's report:

Thankyou for inviting me to review the manuscript entitled "Participatory Learning and Action to address type 2 diabetes in rural Bangladesh: a qualitative process evaluation".

The work highlights the importance of group activities in changing the social and cultural practices which eventually can be beneficial in controlling and/or preventing diabetes mellitus.

My comments are as follows:

1. DM is a growing menace globally particularly affecting the low- and middle-income group countries. This is a cause for enormous concern especially in Asian populations which contributes to approximately 50% of total diabetes population. Thus, this growing problem can only be circumvented by group activities by diabetes educators/social workers involving underprivileged people in far-flung areas where health facilities are inaccessible.

2. The authors had a programme of group interviews and focussed group discussions but no objective parameters anywhere in the manuscript have been mentioned regarding decreased consumption of calories, change in weight and BMI, improvement in HbA1c, quantification of physical activity, altered quality of life and finally the incidence of prediabetes and diabetes. Therefore, without any objective assessment, the outcome of the work accomplished seems to be futile as conversation is always to be substantiated by robust data to strengthen it.

3. The data which has been presented sound nice but these are usual conversations without any solid or concrete evidence.

4. The practices adopted by the co-ordinators seem to be simple and they can be potentially meaningful if they really help in changing the lifestyle and individual and social practices. However, we did not find any questionnaire that was used by the investigators.

5. DM is the 7th largest cause of death- no reference has been quoted.

6. "Intermediate hyperglycemia" is not an accepted term and it should be referred to as prediabetes.
Therefore, this manuscript is not suitable for publication in the aforementioned journal.

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

No

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

No

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

No

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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