Reviewer’s report

Title: Setting the Global Research Agenda for Community Health Systems: Literature and Consultative Review

Version: 0 Date: 20 Dec 2018

Reviewer: G Y M Alsheikh

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript #: HRHE-D-18-00193 My review

Setting the Global Research Agenda for Community Health Systems: Literature and Consultative Review by Agarwal et al.

This is a very well planned, executed and presented extensive work which I recommend its publication in HRHE. The authors may wish to address following concern. The ultimate set of five research questions which received highest consensus of experts, cover the different areas of identified gaps. However, it is worth stating that 3 out of the 5 priorities were concerned with supervision and governance and one for each of cost effectiveness and motivation. No doubt many of the 32 areas identified were not covered. The community embeddedness and community acceptance is among the most important areas which were left uncovered. As Scott et al stated, "acceptance from a community may affect CHW retention, motivation, performance, and accountability" and "there is minimal evidence on how to strengthen a CHW connection to the community (Scott et al 2018.) I believe this area need to be considered in the questions by authors if that is regarded pertinent. Otherwise, the manuscript is an important contribution to this important aspect of the PHC-based health system strengthening.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An exceptional article

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

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.