

Reviewer's report

Title: Empowering health personnel for decentralized health planning in India: an experience of the Public Health Resource Network

Version: 1 **Date:** 7 March 2008

Reviewer: Nerges Mistry

Reviewer's report:

Major Revisions:

The theme of the manuscript is relevant in context of the wide scale implementation of the NRHM and the needs that have been highlighted therein.

However, the manuscript needs to incorporate the experience of the Public Health Resource Network in its formative years outlining the benefits and blocks to its functional objectives and expected outcomes. The link between trainee expertise and grassroots systems, institutions and individuals needs to be emphasized on one hand whilst examining the impact of PHRN on State and Central Govt. Health Departments in systemizing the skills and expertise that the Network offers. A specific vision of the future role of the Network also needs to be included.

Whilst the textual style is adequate, the authors need to provide more in depth bytes of the Network a brief mention of the uniqueness of the initiative and its comparison with parallels elsewhere

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.