

Review of: "Expanding Participatory Epidemiology to Explore Community Perceptions of Human and Livestock Diseases among Pastoralists in Turkana County, Kenya"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare. Mohamed Aziz darghouth

The present study describes a novel low-cost method using Participatory Epidemiology (PE) to identify human and animal disease priorities within a One Health perspective. This work holds significant relevance as it enables the customization of disease control options to the specific knowledge context of the target pastoral communities in Turkana County. To better highlight the originality of this study, the following points should be addressed:

Introduction section:

i/ The authors should elaborate on the objective of the study, emphasizing the novelty of the PE method employed within a One Health approach. They should explicitly state that the study aims to assess this new method using PE to simultaneously target human and animal diseases. The objective is to gain in-depth knowledge that can be utilized to customize disease control options according to the community needs and expectations.

Study design and sample:

i/ It is essential to specify the rationale behind choosing the four strategic locations for the Focus Group Discussions (FDGs). At this stage, it would be relevant to provide a brief outline of the major biophysical and epidemiological characteristics, as well as the sociological context of the pastoral communities. This information is crucial as one of the objectives of the method used is to demonstrate its ability to capture differences in perception and disease knowledge between locations.

ii/ The protocol of the proportional piling exercise needs to be better clarified, was it conducted based on consensus among the participants in each FDG, or does it represent the average resulting from individual assessments?

Results:

The results section seems to have not shown the presentation of the top five human and animal diseases based on their perceived importance, it is unclear if there are discrepancies between these results and those obtained from the proportional piling exercise.

Discussion:

i/ It is relevant to begin the discussion section by stating that the main objective of the present work is to evaluate the

contribution of the PE/One Health survey in obtaining more accurate epidemiological information regarding the perception and knowledge of animal and human diseases among different pastoralist communities in the same county.

ii/ Given the lower cost of the PE methods employed by the authors, it is important to provide some evidence supporting this advantage.

iii/ Emphasizing the differences in disease appreciation and knowledge in relation to the biophysical and sociological aspects of the locations and their respective pastoral communities is crucial, as it represents one of the main strengths of the proposed method.