

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.

The paper titled **"Expanding Participatory Epidemiology to Explore Community Perceptions of Human and Livestock Diseases among Pastoralists in Turkana County, Kenya"** provides a comprehensive and insightful exploration of the relationship between human and livestock diseases and the perceptions of the pastoralist community in Turkana County, Kenya. The authors present a valuable contribution to the field of participatory epidemiology by incorporating the perspectives of the local community, which is often overlooked in traditional epidemiological studies.

- One of the strengths of this paper is the methodology employed. The authors utilize a participatory approach, engaging the community members as active participants in the research process. By involving the pastoralists in the data collection and analysis, the study achieves a more comprehensive understanding of their perceptions of diseases. This approach not only provides a more holistic perspective but also empowers the local community by recognizing their knowledge and expertise.
- The study effectively presents the findings, revealing the complex interplay between human and livestock diseases within the pastoralist community. It uncovers the influence of cultural, social, and economic factors on disease transmission and community responses to outbreaks. The authors demonstrate a deep understanding of the local context, enabling them to interpret the findings accurately and draw meaningful conclusions. This understanding adds value to the research and its implications for disease control and prevention. It highlights the integral relationship between animal health and human well-being, contributing to the broader field of One Health.

Improvement Suggestions:

- While the participatory approach is commendable, the paper lacks sufficient details on the process of community engagement. Additional information on participant selection, data collection methods, and analysis would enhance the paper's methodological rigor and replicability. The involvement of community members in data collection and analysis introduces the possibility of bias. Participants may have their own beliefs, preconceptions, or limited perspectives that could influence the research outcomes. The paper should address how potential biases were mitigated.
- The study primarily focuses on community perceptions without providing a comparative analysis or contrasting them with expert opinions or epidemiological data. Incorporating a comparative perspective would strengthen the validity of the findings and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the disease dynamics.

- The paper does not extensively discuss the limitations of the research, such as sample size, representativeness, or potential confounding factors. A more thorough acknowledgment of these limitations would provide readers with a balanced view of the study's scope and implications.