Reviewer's report

Title: Medical Students' perceptions of Educational Environment at an Iranian Medical Sciences University

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Reviewer: Arnoldo Riquelme

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting topic showing the relevance of clinical skills attitudes among undergraduate medical students. However, there are several aspects, particularly in methodology and related with psycometric analysis that must be expanded (Major Compulsory Revisions):

Introduction:

Explain more about the Hormozgan Universitiy Medical School curriculum and if you have a communication skill course or specific teaching/learning activities related with communication skills in the clinical phase of the curriculum.

Methods:

Inform consent of the students responding the questionnaire and Ethical committee aproval was not explicitly explained in the methods.

The undergraduate students` universe is 350 students but you do not explain the reason why you administered the questionnaire to only 210 students. The questionnaire was administered electronically or face-to-face?

Reliability of the instrument (CSAS)should be considered as part of the results. Positive and negative items of a questionnaire must not be considered subscales and I recommend to the authors to carry out a factor analysis in order to determine if this is a uni or multidimensional questionnaire. The psycometric properties of the instrument, particularly reliability was calculated by using Cronbach´s alpha but nowadays, is desirable to use Generalisability theory.

Results:

Expand the results of the psycometric properties of the instrument.

Discussion:

Explain in detail the teaching/learning activities in basic sciences and clinical phase of the curriculum related with early introduction to clinical practice and/or clinical skills course (clinical skill centre), particularly if you recently carried out a curriculum reform.

Please explain your assessment system and if you have OSCE and/or portfolios.

Finally, explain your plans and if you want to change some aspects of your curriculum in order to improve the clinical skills attitude of your students.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: 'I declare that I have no competing interests'