Reviewer's report

Title: Student approaches for learning in medicine: What does it tell us about the informal curriculum?

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Reviewer: Li Chong Chan

Reviewer's report:

An interesting study that contributes to why an informal curriculum exists in parallel to the formal curriculum with implications for curriculum planners.

The following issues need to be addressed.

Minor
1. It is necessary for the authors to let readers know the type of curriculum in University of Queensland - how much is PBL used versus formal teaching
2. I am not sure what the term "to be a good doctor" means in the various items
3. Why are students able to get hold of tutor guides?
4. The important word "learning" is omitted from page 4 line 3 after "problem-based"; and it is more accurate if the word "Some" is put in front of "Problem-Based (PBL).. in first sentence of paragraph 2 on page 4

Major
1. The aspect of validity and reliability of the instrument for the study should not form a major part of the paper, they can be summarised under Methods - Table 2 and 3 can be omitted
6. Arising from the results, it is necessary for the authors to suggest recommendations to improve the curriculum

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests