Reviewer's report

Title: Student feedback on the use of paintings in Sparshanam, the Medical Humanities module at KIST Medical College, Nepal

Version: 1 Date: 11 November 2010

Reviewer: Mehmet Ali Gülpınar

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions
General comments: An important and interesting topic is studied in this manuscript. But, unfortunately, there are some substantial weakness. In general, methodology is weak, discussion is unsatisfactory and the study do not provide new information to the current medical humanity literature. The followings are the main concerns regarding the study:

Abstract: The results and conclusions are rather non-specific and – un-focused.
Introduction: The introduction is well prepared with a brief, but important frame.
Methods and results: The methods and results require major restructuring. The methods are not described in enough detail for the reader. Also, the results are not well focused. Furthermore, a qualitative design (more qualitative data and analysis, instead of quantitavie ones) might provide more useful information and a better understanding for this particular study.
Discussion and conclusion: Probably, due to the incompetent analysis of data and un-focused results, the authors did not effectively discuss the study findings. Moreover, regarding the medical humanity, the conclusion does not say so much about specific point, e.g.“The study shows that it is possible to use paintings in medical education in a developing country” or “Participant response was positive. There were a number of advantages of using paintings”

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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