Reviewer's report

Title: Medical Students' Choices of Specialty in The Gambia: The Need for Career Counselling

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2012

Reviewer: Ian Wilson

Reviewer's report:

This paper is on an interesting topic but is written in a way that makes it difficult to accept. The method of writing is such that the authors tend to overstate their case and is not grounded in the analysis of the literature.

Major compulsory revisions
The order of the section of the paper is incorrect and the sections on method and subjects needs to come before the results.

Spelling is inconsistent with words such as paediatrics or gynaecology or orthopaedics spelt in different ways. They need to be spelt consistently.

There are a number of unreferenced assertions that need references
See page 3 "associations with particular personality disorders"
page 4 "many doctors waste time" - I for one would not consider this time wasted.
etc

The references need checking
REF 19 does not refer to career choice, but the negative impact of having too much choice (for some people)
Ref 20 is incorrect

Minor essential revisions
Table 1 - it is not clear why Father's occupation is reported but Mothers Educational Level - this needs to be explained

Discretionary revisions
I think I understand the term "mentor emulation" but the paper would be improved by an expalantion fo the term

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests