Reviewer’s report

Title: Self-assessment versus work-place assessments of competence: four cohorts of medical graduates and perceptions of 'old 'versus 'new' curriculum.

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Reviewer: Ahmed Yaqinuddin

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I think this is an interesting study comparing the outcomes of the graduates from two curriculum cohorts of the same medical school by self assessments and work-place based assessments.

Major Concern:

My major concern is with the way data was analyzed. I think if exploratory factor analysis is performed on this data more useful information can be derived.

The authors at one point in the analysis section say that multiple statistical tests were completed. I don't know which tests were performed.

Discretionary Revisions:

I cannot understand what was the need for this curriculum change? The authors themselves concluded that curriculum change from TLB to PBL has done no harm to their graduates. I wonder why this change was needed in first place?

I think the old curriculum described in this study is a "Disciplined based curriculum" rather than "Traditional Lecture Based" or it may be "Organ-system based curriculum". I think curriculum should be described based on core educational Philosophy rather than Teaching & Learning methods.

I don't know if a standardized test like licensing examination could be employed to assess the knowledge and skill components of the students from two curricula.

I think assessment at R1 level from residency program directors could be very useful also.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest