Reviewer's report

Title: Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma (MOET) Structured skills training in Armenia, utilising models and reality based scenarios

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Reviewer: Dr Metin Gulmezoglu

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

This is a well-written article describing the experience with a skills training programme developed in the UK applied in Armenia. Such tools to develop skills and update practices are important to improve the quality of care. RJ is one of the most experienced people working on improving clinical practices in the obstetric field.

General comments:

Although the objective is clearly described, I am slightly confused or unclear about the overall study. As I understand, this is not planned as a research project per se but rather as description of the experience with the implementation of a course. I am not sure if the statistical analyses indicating statistically significant pre and posttest differences are relevant or important (particularly when n=8).

I would rather put more emphasis on implementation of this package, handling of any barriers to change and how such a program can be sustained. Perhaps more qualitative information might be useful. It is important to emphasise audit as the authors have done.

Success of the course in the UK and Bangladesh is mentioned. Can this be quantified in some way? Can the authors give some comparative examples between UK, Bangladesh and Armenia workshops? What were the dynamics of the workshops like? Can one take the course as is to any setting? Should one change the contents or the approach for different settings?

I do not think that the course itself should or could be presented as something that changes practice. However, the contents are important and the way it is implemented could be used as the vehicle to improve practices.

I wonder if the authors considered including "updating knowledge" as well as skills in the course?

Introduction is too long and some parts can be removed or moved to methods section.
Discussion (Pg. 9) 1st para. improved practices up to 3 years post training is an important statement. I wonder if the authors could verify/mention how this was measured in the reference cited.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.