Author's response to reviews

Title: Medical students' perceptions in relation to ethnicity and gender: a qualitative study

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Editor
BioMed Central Editorial Team
British Medical Education

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Medical students’ perceptions in relation to ethnicity and gender: a qualitative study. Reference MS: 211169674791642

Thank you for sending us the further comments of the two reviewers for this paper, in response to our revised manuscript following their initial comments. Reviewer 1 is satisfied with our previous revisions. We shall address each of the comments of Reviewer 2 in turn.

Reviewer 2: Katarina Hamberg

1) Introduction p5, first paragraph: we agree that the balance of our summary of the Nicholson paper was not quite right, so we have rephrased this and added reference to the Calkins (see p.5, first paragraph) et al paper which gives a counter-example to present a more even-handed view on this point.

2) Introduction p5, second paragraph: we have changed a previously long and rather unwieldy sentence into three and clearer sentences. (see p.5, second paragraph)

3) Results p7-8: the reviewer is correct to say that our selection of quotations did not fully support the general point. The main points were established from a careful analysis of all our documented material and emerged as the key themes as we have described in the analysis section of the paper. We have therefore presented a different quotation from an account of a male medical student that more directly supports the main point, of an external (public) reason to study medicine, we make here. (see p.8 second account)

4) Results p15: Number of male students who expressed interest in a surgical career is included (see p.15, first paragraph), as requested and commented upon in the Discussion section (see p.18, last paragraph) with reference to the Gjerberg paper which is apposite here.
5) **Results p10:** in the interests of concision we did not make this point at any length (re: comments by a black female medical student) but we accept that it is an important point so we have elaborated that this comment was raised by a student in a sense furthest away from the stereotype of the white male doctor. (see p.10/11)

6) **Results p18:** we accept that our point regarding gender stereotyping was made in an over-compressed way so we have expressed this at slightly more length and in a way that we hope is clearer. (see p.19, first paragraph)

We trust this second revision has responded fully to all the points made by the second reviewer. We look forward to your decision on this paper.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Lempp

pp. Prof. Clive Seale