Reviewer's report

Title: Improving Education in Primary Care: Development of an Online Curriculum Using the Blended Learning Model

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Reviewer: Pratima Gupta

Reviewer's report:

In this paper authors are describing a web based undergraduate medical teaching programme and its acceptability to students. The idea of web-based learning is very interesting and can be an important source of learning especially in circumstances where direct interaction with teachers is limited.

1. Authors have stated the goals of the teaching programme and objectives of this paper clearly.

Minor revisions

Methods

2. Overall the modules has been described well and further details are easily accessible from the website link. However, the paper does not clarify that there is no teacher or trainer supports for students within this module and that the answers to the questions asked during activities are fixed. In methods section (paragraph 2), it is said that open-ended questions and discussion boards allow students to address clinical issues, but it should be clarified, as it appeared to me that there is no arrangement for feedback. If there is then it should be clarified in the paper.

3. The full form of “SOAP” note should be included in the paper as readers unaware of the US medical system may not be aware of this term.

4. In paragraph 4, it is said that other students and faculty members can see the discussion board but it is not stated how often this was actually done and how useful it is for overall learning.

Results

5. The numbers do not tally in the text and in the table 2.

The results for first module are missing from table 2. The n numbers for module 2-4 do not match with those given in paragraph 1 in the results section. It is not clear why only results from 14 students have been presented for module 4. In table 2, for module 3, N has been used instead of n.

Discussion

6. Authors have included many relevant points and some limitations of this course, but they should also acknowledge that
The modules are very brief and only covers a small spectrum of medical curriculum. It has to be complemented by other study material.

7. This course is providing a one-way interaction. This is very interesting but may not be the best learning method for all students.

8. There should be an appropriate feedback mechanism for students either inbuilt in the system or by regular group discussions or meetings with the teachers.

9. It is not surprising that authors did not find much significant difference in the measured outcome of this teaching programme compared to traditional teaching because such outcomes depend on many factors.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.