Author's response to reviews

Title: How are health professionals earning their living in Malawi?

Authors:

Adamson S Muula (muula@email.unc.edu)
Fresier C Maseko (fcmaseko@yahoo.com)

Version: 2 Date: 11 July 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Comments on the first revision

Thank you for giving us opportunity to revise the manuscript. The following comments are made to strengthen the manuscript:

Methods
We have provided further information especially in regard to the concerns by the reviewers. Specifically, we have reported on how study participants were identified, which institutions provided permission to conduct the study and how permission at site and consent was obtained. We have also reported that we did not collect people’s names, although we have also to admit that with the limited number of health workers at some sites, it would be very easy to identify study subjects. It is for this reason that we did not report the sites visited, suffice to say that we visited representative districts in all the three regions of the country. We also append the questionnaires used for data collection as suggested by the reviewers. Data collection method and analysis has been further described. Interview guides have been put as appendices.

Results

We have also used descriptive themes presented in the results at their introduction. We agree with the reviewer on his/her suggestions and we have attempted to correct the errors. We have painfully decided not to include frequencies and to indicate percentages. In a study like this one, we believe such numerical presentation has potential to be misrepresented. The discussion section has been included and conclusions have been further strengthened.