Reviewer’s report

Title: Physician and nurse supply in Serbia using time-series data: A Case Study

Version: 2 Date: 9 January 2013

Reviewer: Basu Ghosh

Reviewer's report:

Re-review of the Article entitled
“Towards a better approach for physician and nurse requirement planning – learning from the past”

Revised Title of the Article

The changed title of the article reflects that it is a Case Study. But it is not clear to me why a diametrically opposite term “supply” has been used instead of the previously used term, “requirement”. The study deals with “the numbers of physicians and nurses employed” which connotes “realized demand” rather than “supply” (which includes the unemployed).

Background

The authors have not added a paragraph explaining the HRH planning approach used in Serbia prior to 1961, during 1961-1982 and 1983-2008. They have only referred to the use of manpower population ratios as the main basis of estimation of staff requirement.

Methods

The authors have accepted almost all the points made in my previous report as “limitations”. With so many limitations, it is difficult to concede that the paper deserves to be published as a case study that other authors can emulate. I am unable to understand how “student enrollment or graduates” can be used as an input variable to ‘requirement estimation’ while that is only an indicator of potential supply of manpower.

(sd)
Prof. Basu Ghosh Ph.D

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.