Reviewer's report

Title: Training evaluation: a case study of training Iranian health managers

Version: 1 Date: 8 December 2008

Reviewer: Axel Hoffmann

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: none

Minor essential revisions: none

Discretionary revisions:

1) The article is aiming on analysing a model of good practice for evaluating individual capacity building through short courses. As individual capacity building seems not to be most successful if it is linked with institutional capacity building, I recommend to include one paragraph in the discussion part on this topic.

2) The authors mention in the conclusion part, that teachers should prepare local case studies for a better linking of theory and practice. I can agree in principal - but we could also discuss, that learners - according to Bloom’s taxonomy of learning outcomes - should be able to reflect on "external" examples and transfer their experience with such case studies to their specific work environment. Of course such an approach would have to be stated in the learning objectives. One could reflect in the conclusions also about such an approach.

3) the result, that students did not value online learning and twinning of institutes is a very important result, it is contrary to the favoured approaches of many bilateral and international agencies and institutions. Therefore I would go a bit deeper in the discussion of this result.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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