Reviewer’s report

Title: Mobility of primary health workers in China

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Reviewer: Wen Chen

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China has proposed to improve equitable access for urban and rural residents to primary health care through developing rural township health centers and urban community health centers, which play leading role in delivering primary health care as asserted by the authors. However, the availability and qualification of human resources in those health facilities became one of the main obstacles to achieving the policy target. The mobility of experienced primary health workers out of front-line delivers of primary health care has deteriorated the problem. This study raised the necessity to analyze the situation in China and tried to provide the evidence through a nation-wide health facility survey and informants interview. Based on the survey in 119 rural township health centers and 89 urban community health centers in 10 representative provinces, the results showed that 8.1% and 8.9% of existing health workers with formal medical education mobilized out of township and community health centers in 2005 on account of low income, limited opportunities of professional development and poor living conditions. At last, the authors put forward policy recommendations aiming at the findings from the survey. In general, the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data retrieved from the study.

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.