Reviewer's report

Title: Nursing brain drain from India

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Reviewer: Anand S Kurup

Reviewer's report:

I think the article is timely to add to the current discussion on the article by Clemens and Petterssen on the migration of African doctors and nurses to the developed countries. It is a well reasoned article, and balanced. The standard of writing is also acceptable.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I assume that the authors are discussing about the female nurses, but would be really good if this is mentioned in the article, as Kerala also has a number of training institutions who train male nurses. Many of the students opt for the male nurse training institutions mainly for the purpose of going to developed countries, especially to US & UK.

2. While I agree that the article could contribute to the discussions, I think it is very short, and has a potential to be made a bit more longer by including:

- Some general background of nursing in Kerala
- Size of the nursing workforce, training capacity, socio-economic background etc
- Extent of the migration of workforce in general from Kerala, and specifically migration of health workforce/ nurses from Kerala - referring to other similar articles. This will put migration from in Kerala in it's context.

3. Also doubtful about the conclusion that fifth of the country's nursing labour force is lost to wealthier States through circular migration from a cross-sectional study involving less than 100 subjects, and from one private hospital in a small State of India, unless it is corroborated by quoting extensively from larger studies on the subject.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.