Reviewer's report

Title: Teaching Programs for Health Systems Research in Schools of Public Health in East and Central African Universities

Version: 1
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Reviewer: John Hall

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1. Introduction – Paragraph 2 – the sentence “These characteristics include high disease burden, dilapidated health infrastructure, weak leadership, poor management, and inadequate human resources in both numbers and competencies.” This sentence needs a reference that supports this assertion.

2. Discussion – Paragraph 3 – the sentence “Evidence-based decision making is also essential, given that about 12% of the world’s population resides in Sub-Saharan Africa yet it is home to over 25% of the global disease burden and supported by only 3% of the world’s health workforce.” needs to a reference to support this assertion and the data used in the sentence.

3. Discussion – Paragraph 3, sentence 2 – the term “the Africa Hub” either needs a few words of what it is and does or a reference. Otherwise the whole sentence does not make sense.

4. Discussion – Paragraph 4, sentence 2 – again the terms “the Africa Hub – the HEALTH Alliance” need a reference or a few words of explanation. Otherwise what is being said makes no sense and assumes all readers know what the authors are means by these terms.

5. Discussion – Paragraph 5, sentence 2 – “Only two schools appear to have adequate staffing levels.” What do the authors mean by the term “adequate”? Is there a reference which gives the recommended number of staff in African Universities?

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

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'