Reviewer’s report
Title: A global survey on occupational health services in selected International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) member countries

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Reviewer: Anne-Mette Momsen

Reviewer's report:
General comments:
The manuscript is too long, including an overload of tables.
Suggestion to use the abbreviation for occupational Health service OHS throughout the manuscript - may ease reading.

Check the English.
More structured text, suggest the results and discussion structured according to the survey questions/the conclusion regarding the "gaps".
Parts of the text (discussion and conclusion) need rephrasing.

Abstract, Background:
Not clear, e.g. for whom should Occupational health services be organized, this sentence makes it unclear. Is it only for the sector of economy?

Keywords: choose other (more precise)keywords than coverage, priorities

Background
Suggestion to only write the newest resolution (11), the others may be enclosed as references only, so that the main subject is stressed: "...called the members to strengthen their OHS..."

What are the main issues of the paper?
p. 5, last 2 sentences: References are missing
Material and Method section:
Check the language and excess informations, e.g. "if available to the investigator" (unnecessary information)

Is the level of statistically significant difference p<0.001?
Are the main domains of the survey (presented in Table 1) a method or a result?

Suggestion to let these domains to a larger extent structure the following result and discussion sections.
Descriptions (p. 10) are results of the survey?

Results:
Too much information is provided as both text and tables, e.g. page 16/Table 7.
Too many tables - however, text could be shortened, and maybe some tables could be either collapsed or include more of the text information.
e.g. Table 3 Availability of professional groups in responding countries + information of professional associations

Text provided in the result section e.g. p. 19 - move to discussion section, e.g.
"The increase in coverage was due to the higher coverage of the new respondents when compared with the 2011 survey. Thus, it cannot be concluded that the global coverage of occupational health services would have increased, but it was due to the change in the study base."

Text in result section e.g. p. 21 may belong to background (or deleted?):
"an optimal case, the occupational health services provide surveillance of work environment, surveillance of workers' health, risk assessment, prevention of occupational injuries and diseases, first aid, curative care, maintenance of work ability and rehabilitation, health promotion and health education, and workplace Development services [61], i.e. comprehensive occupational health services."
Discussion:
The text provided in discussion section (p.26) is rather a part of results:
"The study base was changed for part by drop-out of 13 of the respondents of the 2011 survey. At the same time, 15 'new' respondents who did not participate in 2011 came in. The net increase was 2 countries. Africa added substantially its participation by 6 'new' countries."

Figures are to be presented before the discussion section?
Suggestion: move to results: p. 29 "An experiment for an 8-domain profile by using data from four countries in this survey is presented in Figure 3 [38, 40, 68-69].

Excess text presented in the discussion, e.g. p. 29 "The current study question No. 16 inquired the coverage of the workers as a percentage of the total employed population, i.e. the proportion of the workers with access to occupational Health services. This coverage describes the extent to which the occupational health service needs by the total workforce are met, including all modes of employment (e.g. small enterprises, the self-employed and the informal sector)."

Rephrase to make the statements clear.

Future priorities:
"The respondents identified high numbers of priorities for future developments of occupational health services (Figure 2). The priorities were principally directed to content, infrastructures, functions and capacities of occupational health services, i.e. to strengthening of the implementation rather than to policy or strategy, which are available in the majority of the countries. The replies suggest that the countries have recognized the gaps in human resources, content and in coverage, and seek responses to them."

Conclusions:
..."The replies to surveys such as the present one are, however, affected by almost the universal lack of statistics and of systematically collected information on occupational health services. There is a need for the development of national information and statistics systems on occupational health service policies, institutional, human and financial resources, structures,
coverage, contents, activities and impact of occupational health services in the countries in order to enable more quantitative analysis."

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Needs some language corrections before being published

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