Reviewer’s report

Title: CONTEXTUAL DETERMINANTS OF CHILDREN’S HEALTH CARE AND POLICY IN EUROPE

Version: 1 Date: 21 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Adam Fushieni

Reviewer's report:

The topic being investigated is quite significant and the findings of this study might contribute to further policy changes in the European countries and elsewhere in relation to children's health and wellbeing. However, the paper needs major restructuring and editing.

Firstly, the major objective of the study should be consistent with the title of the paper. Authors stated the objective of the study as: "The main objective of this study was to explore the contextual determinants of child health policies in relation to the prevailing socio-cultural background". But the title is: Contextual Determinants of Children's Health Care and Policy in Europe". Socio-cultural background is just one of the contextual factors.

Methodology
Lines 14-19: Authors need to specify whether the semi-structured questionnaires were administered face-to-face or by some other means. How were the data collection coordinated? Were the semi-structured interviews/surveys recorded and transcribed? Authors also have to be clear whether it was a survey or interview. The use of NviVo seems to suggest it was not a survey.

Lines 46-50: How was the coding done and how many of the research team members were involved in the coding? Was it done individually or as a team? what procedures guided the coding process?

Lines 52-60: Was the categorisation of data done in each country and how did authors arrive at the themes that informed the findings and discussions of the study?

Results
My initial observation is that the results section is too long. Some of the issues could be summarised or moved to the discussion section, which is rather very light. We understand authors wanted to present all the evidence but this has resulted in repetitions across the various areas of the section.

Lines 21-37: are all methodological issues and would be more relevant in the methods section.

Line 57: Figures are mentioned but not included in the manuscript or attched.

Revisions Required
1. Authors could present the results in sub-headings, for instance, under socio-cultural determinants, you could have sub-headings such as: Societal activation, awareness, communication, trust etc

Authors could then indicate that socio-cultural determinants come in several forms and dimensions such as mass activation, individual activism, awareness of the issue or problem….. This would ensure authors summarise the issues and make it more focused than it is now. The reader gets drowned and lost in the process. This should be done for all the other determinants such as structural and specific situational.

2. Summarise some of the issues in the results section to reduce the length and cut out repetition. e.g. "The global humanitarian crisis and the plight of unaccompanied asylum seekers was prominently discussed mainly in the UK and Finland; and the situation of migrant families worsened in countries affected by the economic crisis". Statements like this have been repeated several times in the manuscript.

The manuscript also needs strong editing. e.g. Line 60: infectious diseases (especially tuberculosis and vaccinations); "Vaccinations" cannot be infectious diseases.

Lines 31-33: "As in most of these cases, the impact of past policies and inherited traditions". This is an incomplete sentence and also there should be space between "policies and inherited". There are several of these in the manuscript.

Discussion
The discussion needs to be strengthened in light of the results. The first part of the discussion is not particularly focused on child health care and policies. Given the comprehensive results section, the discussion should naturally follow from the main issues raised under each contextual determinant.

For instance. Lines 55-60: "Our classification of structural determinants was divided into two groups: 1) internal determinants, which comprise of interdependent health care and policy processes such as access to care, provision of care. Sensitivity to structural determinants reflects the socio-economic problems across Europe; and 2) external determinants which relate to elements indirectly correlated with health care services and policy, such as policy and politics, economy and finance". This has already been stated and I expected a further discussion of this based on your results.

The specific-situational contextual determinant is only mentioned in the last paragraph of the discussion (Lines 38-40) without any discussion of it. This is because most of the discussion has been done in the results section.

I recommend authors look at the results section to move some of the discussions to this section.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

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

Yes

**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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