Reviewer's report

Title: Self-competence in death work among health and social care workers: A region-wide survey in Hong Kong

Version: 0 Date: 14 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Amparo Oliver

Reviewer's report:
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This is an interesting manuscript, build upon the SC in Death different in health and social caregivers in Hong Kong region. As authors pointed, professional attention at the end of life become a challenge and consequently more research is needed to know about in which extent with professionals are ready to cope with this.

I have some concerns about the manuscript:
The SC in Death scale validation was published in JPSM in 2015, is there more evidence since then about his generalizability to other contexts from that where it was created? For instance Bugen (1981) scale has been confirmatory validated in European, Spanish context (Galiana et al., 2017). Could be interesting for readers to know more about the scale performance in different contexts. Please, contextualize the benefits of using SC in Death scale against other scales, as I believe is an improvement compared with Bugen's scale.

Also it could be an improvement to widen the scope in the introduction and discussion, not just to SCD but more variables from inner curriculum in professionals (p.e. self-care).

Provide in table 1 data distribution regarding professionals in each service. For example in results you mentioned about Acute's but no information is provided about this or other service (palliative, hematology, geriatrics..)
In results authors mentioned with a relevant echo in conclusions...that young, nurses and those working in acute hospitals are the ones more need to gain in self competence in Death. Please, consider in methodology section (or in limitations if is the case), to include or control for years of experience. The only mention to that information is a dichotomous variable (less or more than 10 years), ..in which extent the results about young workers are really due to age?
Similarly, nurses main effect clarify if is not due to the fact sample is mostly nurse based (65.3%)
Finally results about professionals in acute hospitals need more detail, compare with other services.


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.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

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.
I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable
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