Reviewer’s report

Title: "Small, small interventions. Big, big role." Patient, care-giver and health-care worker experiences of a palliative care programme in Kerala, India: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 31 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Philip Larkin

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

Thank you for submission. I read this with interest and overall I find it a good example of reporting of a qualitative study. There are some relatively minor points (1 slightly more than minor) that I feel you could address.

1. The 'slightly more than minor' comment is that I think you need to review the way you present your sample and the use of Focus groups. You indicate in the abstract that you had one patient when in fact later you say 8 and you cannot do a focus group with one person. I think this is an issue of reporting more than anything but the way you describe it needs clarification.

2. You make a point that many of the patients are paraplegic but I am not sure why that is needed. I would add that the range of patients you report is quite different to the populations usually served by Western palliative care services. You could mention that?

3. You identify a lot of codes and if I am correct, three global themes. Can you add a couple of sentences which explain how you were able to reduce all the codes to these themes? Were there any sub-themes? There is a lot of data so it would be helpful to see the links in the analysis here.

4. On pg 14, I note that memos were taken (as reported). Can you mention that in the methods section?

5. Pg 4 line 76 - I think this should be 'the worlds population'

6. Pg 13, line 312 - I would just use the word 'aged'.

7. Pg 16, line 375 - Can you note who this quotation is from underneath the text as you have done with all the other quotations
My final comment is that there is a sense that this study is part of a larger evaluation of the Kerala service. I may be wrong, but if not, I think it is important to state that at the beginning.

Overall, I think with a little revision, notably the sampling section, this is a very interesting paper

**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.

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:

Acceptable

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