Reviewer's report

Title: What all students in healthcare training programs should learn to increase health equity: Perspectives on postcolonialism and health

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Reviewer: Jill Allison

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This is a well written article.

Discretionary revisions suggested.

1) My biggest concern is the use of the term post colonialism as if it is a kind of fixed and identifiable thing in and of itself. For example, the authors suggest that postcolonialism is a “tool” that can used. (page 3, line 54). Post colonialism is a social and political context. It is fluid, ever changing and different in every country and even territory. I think it is an important analytical perspective but I don’t think it can be called a tool.

2) The authors acknowledge that their participants spoke to a particular post colonial context as Aboriginal community members, teachers and professionals. The references to the euro-centricity of health care professionals and the system and the impact of “whiteness” tends to leave out other non-European practitioners and members of the community as having a different experience in post-colonial context. After all, many HCPs are from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. They will have alternative but equally valid perspectives to share with learners. There are broader conversations to be had about power and privilege related to social class and gender that are products of a post colonial reality.

3) The discussion around the notion of cultural competency is very important and I think the linking to critical consciousness is great. This is linked to reflexivity and is one way to overcome the issue of who teaches material and whether they have lived experience upon which to draw and their ability to critically position themselves in regard to the challenges they are provoking.

The research methodology is clear. I think the paper should be published with perhaps some thought to how postcolonialism is referenced. It is a theoretical tool certainly but I think the use of the word lens is a better description of how this important in both teaching and in practice for HCPs.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.