Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychosocial Issues Discovered through Reflective Group Dialogue between Medical Students

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Andrea Thompson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to read this interesting paper.

I have commented on the need for further clarification/explanation below. There are two key areas that need to be addressed. It is unclear whether the discussions in groups are always related to pediatric patients only. You have said these discussions occurred after time in a pediatric setting so one assumes the discussions are about pediatrics only. There needs to be closer connection between the findings and your discussion. For example, the discussion includes a lengthy discussion about social media - it is difficult to see why this is emphasised in view of the findings.

Abstract:

41 Can you be sure about this statement? Are you referring to all medical curricula?

43 Maybe state the aim more clearly, that is, 'The aim of this study ..........'

48 Clarification needed in relation to 'when students were rotated out of the paediatric department - do you mean when they had completed their rotation?'

48 What are the six copies you are referring to? Some clarification is needed.

56 The theme 'Competency towards the medical profession' does not robustly align with your findings. Maybe the title of this theme needs to be changed.

Background

83 disease rather than diseases

102 Being impressed seems a little unclear - maybe replace 'impressed'

111 patients' not patient's
143 'educate' may be more appropriate than 'train'

145-147 Clarification is needed - were the students' psychosocial issues related to narrators (I am unsure who the narrators are?), peers and teachers, a focus of this study (in addition to patients perspectives?)? If so, this doesn't align with your aim.

Group Discussion

162 Did all students participate? Did they have the opportunity to opt out of the study?

164 sentence commencing "The students disclosed......needs restructuring as meaning is unclear

Transcript

173 Maybe for clarity - "The recordings for the six reflective group sessions were transcribed". Subsequently, return to the abstract and clarify what the six copies are that you are referring to.

Results

189 Six discussion groups were recorded over a 1-year period.

189 thematic rather than theme

251 Clarification is needed - elderly patients -or do you mean elderly family members?

268 You have mentioned resuscitation for elderly family members - what is the connection to your study about paediatrics?

278-282 In addition... these two sentences maybe better placed in the discussion

288 The title of this theme is different to the abstract. The title does not seem to best represent what is contained in the findings

299 Unsure what you mean by 'hidden ...... procedures of medical personnel

301 Unsure what you mean by 'accompaniment' in clinical care

302 meaning of 'spiritual responsibility in a doctor's professional identity' is unclear

307 Maybe 'deconstruct their professional identity' would be more suitable here

323 Remove hyphen after women and children
376 What growth environments are you referring to?

387 Unsure what 'television doctors' refers to

386-391 - this long sentence needs restructuring for clarity

408 Sentence is unclear

415 Brackets are not needed for a quote

432 - unsure as to what you mean by the 'observational outcomes'

453 It could be argued that patients' psychosocial narratives are already very important and central to a doctor's practice, and carefully considered in medical curricula. There seems to be a strong assumption running through this paper that patients' psychosocial factors are neglected. I wonder if this was your intention.

458 This is the first mention of Kirkpatrick's framework - hence it is best you omit.

All the best with your publication.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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