Reviewer's report

Title: Factors deterring dentistry, medical, pharmacy, and social science undergraduates from pursuing nursing as a healthcare career: A cross-sectional study in an Asian university

Version: 0 Date: 16 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Lingling Zhang

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity for reviewing. It is a well-written manuscript that addressed an interesting question. Please see my comments below:

Overall Comment:

The authors selected a very unique population: First-year students undertaking medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and social science courses. This population can certainly reflect some perspectives of this research question. However, in my opinion, this population would not be very convincing. For instance, students who rejected nursing as a career may take other courses than the courses included in this study. I personally think that undergraduates who reject nursing as a career would be more appropriate.

Background:

I would recommend the authors include more details regarding the nursing education/training process in Singapore in the background section.

Methods

On Page 7, "One-way ANOVA was used to … among the five different healthcare groups". Please clarify which groups the authors referred to here. There are only four groups (Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Social Science).

In addition, please consider conducting multi-variable regression analyses to control potential confounding factors (e.g., demographics, social-economic status, etc.) among these different groups.
Results:

On Page 7, Demographics: "most were females (n=280, 62.9%)". If my calculation is correct, the percentage of female should be 47% (280/604 = 47%).

On Table 1, the gender distribution (male: 224 and the female: 280) suggested that the total N would be 504, rather than 604 indicated in the text body. Please double check the calculations throughout this manuscript.

On Page 8, the authors suggested that "nursing as a career as more likely influenced by prior healthcare exposure". However, students who previously had healthcare exposure might have some unpleasant experience, which could have a negative impact on their career choice in healthcare. Please consider including discussions on this potential scenario.

Discussion:

Social-economic status could be an important factor that influences students' career choice. Please further discuss its potential impact.

Limitation:

I would suggest the authors further discuss the limitation regarding the population selection (see my comment above).

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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