Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers and facilitators to writing quality items for medical school assessments – a scoping review

Version: 0 Date: 17 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a technically sound contribution?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: An interesting study considering that MCQs are the most used (and abused) tools in educational testing.
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Adding few more citations/ studies of interventions where such factors have been shown to improve the outcome.

With increasing awareness about validity, it should be emphasized that validity is not an inherent property of any tool. It needs to be built up. Recognizing factors which improved the quality of items will go a long way in generating valid test items.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.
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.

Yes

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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