Reviewer’s report

Title: Stressors and resources related to academic studies and improvements suggested by medical students: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Jan C. Frich

Reviewer's report:

The title: «Stressors and resources related to academic studies and potential improvements suggested by medical students: a qualitative study» is a bit long. Consider shortening/revising.

The aim of the study (abstract) is: «to identify stressors, resources and suggestions for improvement as perceived by medical students». The needs to specify and make explicit what these factors are related too (academic studies?). Also, use the same aim in a consistent way at the end of intro.

The study has a broad scope and includes students from all parts of the medical school program in one university. The findings are in line with existing knowledge, but some new themes emerged related to organisational structure (information flow, repeat exams etc). What was the rational for doing this study? The manuscript now covers a wide range of themes. The manuscript would be more interesting if it focused on how this study adds to existing knowledge.

To me, it is unusual to place all quotes in an appendix. I think quotes are illustrations that should be incorporated into the text in the result section.

The first section under results: «In total, eight focus groups were conducted with overall 68 participants. Each focus group lasted for about 90 minutes …» I do not consider this as a result, but as a description of the sample that could be referred to in the methods section.

The methods discussion covers strengths and weaknesses properly.

I would encourage the authors to revise the manuscript, making the rational for the study more explicit and focusing more on what is already known and what new this study adds.
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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal