Reviewer’s report

Title: A Case Study on Building Capacity to Improve Clinical Mentoring and Maternal Child Health in Rural Tanzania: The Path to Implementation

Version: 0 Date: 27 May 2017

Reviewer: Alvisa Palese

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors

The manuscript is interesting and delicate in a field where urgent efforts are needed. the partnership between a non-profit cooperation and an University, supported by specific resources as well as the programme designed and implemented are all really interesting. Aiming at increasing the value of the study and therefore the evidence produced that may support future studies or decisions in the field, I suggest to consider to introduce the following changes:

a. This seems to be a case study describing the program design and some qualitative/quantitative effects. Therefore, I suggest to change the tile and to provide more details on the method use to design and to tailor the program. In addition, given that the report is mainly based upon some qualitative methodologies, I suggest to follow in reporting both the methods and the finding, a reporting guidelines among those available (e.g. COREQ) this strategy my increase the systematisation of the study

b. Following the findings, specific concerns may emerge in the readers, such as why the follow up was not attended; for each 'failure' or positive effect, in accordance also with the SWAT analysis performed in the initial phase, I suggest to provide recommendation. Readers interested in this kind of study, may benefit to have in the conclusion more specific recommendations as 'lessons learn' given the scares literature in the field.

c. Moreover, in accordance to the SWOT analysis, more data should be reported in the implementation phase (e.g. the turnover rates)

Barriers have not fully explored. For example, the suggested reading of the course has been provided in English, and no mention with regard the language proficiency has been offered. Given that this is a case study, all factors that may have influenced both positive and negative effects, should be reported and qualitatively analysed.

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.

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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