Reviewer’s report

Title: Nursing education challenges and solutions in Sub Saharan Africa: An integrative review

Version: 0 Date: 29 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Virginia Plummer

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting this important review which aims to inform development of a model for improving nurse education.

The background to the problem is well described and justifies the study.

The term competencies should be used consistently instead of competences.

Intro first paragraph last sentence requires a reference, second paragraph lines 47-57 is a very long sentence, could this be reduced to two sentences/

P4 line 20, how many decades? and why is WHO hyphenated? Line 22, moved their basic nursing education - may be better described as are now including Masters and Doctoral level studies in their programs.

P5 paragraph before methods - the purpose of the study reads well, suggest delete the sentence beginning 'specifically, the study aimed..... as it does not add anything for the reader.

P6, lines 13-14, why were the reference lists of the peer reviewed articles not reviewed? Line 16 Consultation with whom? what type of key stakeholders? Were the reports provided voluntarily, with permission from whom if they are not publicly accessible?

P6 section 2.3 Did the researchers only search for qualitative articles and reports?

P7, Results, what happened in the process between identifying 25 papers for review line 41 and six themes emerging Line 46

P8 top few lines, overuse of the word ‘significant

P10.Line 9, professionals play due roles, needs explaining or changing, line 33 'production of nurses' sounds like factory style production line, suggest 'education of nurses'. The following line beginning with 'Unfortunately' needs revisiting or delete The notion of evaluation needs to be considered in a more positive tone.
P13 line 31, why is ICN hyphenated? the remained of that sentence has an unclear meaning. Try and rephrase for clarity

Strengths and limitations- suggest delete what is written and consider the strengths and limitations of this study.

Implications for practice- suggest delete what is written and consider the implications for practice.

Conclusion—where do the findings leave Sub Saharan Africa with respect to the Plan of Action for Scaling Up for the African Region 2012-2022?

Please check on the method if in text referencing for more than one author e.g. McCarthy, Voss {24} p8 and throughout manuscript

Enhancements to the manuscript should be included in the abstract where relevant

A good quality edit of the abstract and manuscript is need to address correct use of grammar, plurals, capital letters, incorrect spelling, and avoidance of emotive terms such as 'massive' (abstract), 'worst hit' (intro)

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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