Reviewer’s report

Title: Parents and nurses telling their stories: The perceived needs of parents caring for critically ill children at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania

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Reviewer: Mandie Jane Foster

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Parents and nurses telling their stories: Perceived needs of parents caring for critically ill children at Kilimanjaro Christian Centre in Tanzania

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this article, I hope that my comments are helpful. I believe that this is a relevant interesting article that needs to be published with further recommendations as detailed. The whole article needs to be checked/revised for grammar, sentence structure, clarity, tense (past tense/third person).

Abstract
Nurses should not be a capital, purposefully recruited…?, when was the study undertaken and data collected, timeframe required, change children care to 'care of their or the child', what does critical needs mean, in the results section, grammar revision needed throughout and importance meaning what.

Background
I suggest that this needs rewriting with relevant contemporary literature, most of the literature used is old and statements made are not supported by references or justified. Why is Tanzania different to Canada or developed countries, why was this study needed, grammar revision required for clarity, there are many articles on the needs of parents in critical care - do you mean minimal articles on the needs of parents within critical care in developing countries, there is a large importance placed on the needs of parents in developed countries but what is the difference between these two worldviews or context (developed versus developing). What was the theoretical underpinnings that guided this study? (FCC, CCC, UNCRC, WHO). Why use this design or methodology used, what is it that you really want to uncover and what impact will this have on an international perspective - is the care, resources, needs, policies, research and/or organisational structure different in Tanzania than in the USA, how can this study direct practice, theory, education or impact on the wellbeing of parents, children and nurses in critical care within this organisation or culture. How does culture, resources, healthcare structure, model of care, service delivery, education of nurses, paternalism, poverty, co-morbidities, mortality, gender… influence the needs of parents with a child in critical care in Tanzania. Could these results be transferable to other developing countries? There definitely is a difference within developing and developed countries but this hasn't been portrayed within the introduction.

Method
Study design and setting
Burn unit (burns unit?), re-write for clarity.

Participants and recruitment
A purposive…, was requested (were requested), have had (had), why 76 hours, have other studies used this timeframe, exclusion/inclusion criteria was…, ethics required in relation to the researcher approaching anyone?, how was this done, should the study confidentiality/voluntary informed involvement have been done before a screening process of actually approaching potential participants, FGDs being?, why above 35 years of age, a Table of the participants included in the study is advisable, did anyone decline and is so why.

Data Collection Procedure
Are FGDs and group discussions the same and if so you should use only one term, how was data saturation achieved, was the data analysed iteratively, did this effect the questions asked, qualifications of moderator, how was the research assistant trained, topic guide/questions developed by whom and formulated from what, was a pilot test conducted, how were consumers involved in the study design and/or questions asked, was gender a particular issue with the discussion groups, justify your methodology, how were participants actively encouraged to participate, this section needs re-writing.

Data Analysis
Areas on credibility need to be addressed for qualitative data collection and analysis 'trustworthiness', storage, confidentiality, anonymity, reflexivity and rigor of the analysis process, how was saturation of the data reached, who read the transcripts (how many researchers - independently or as a group), clarity on the process used re inductive/deductive analyses, findings, codes, categories, themes (similarity of concepts), consensus reached through what process, what model/theorist did you use, participant involvement re member checking, how were the emergent categories compared between and within the discussion groups, why was this done, how many in the research team, I am not clear on how the data was collected, analysed or why this method was chosen.

Ethical Consideration
Collected data when and over what timeframe?

Results
The results need to be re-written once the analyses is clear, how many findings, codes, categories and themes, a Table that clearly outlines an exemplar for each category. Were the same questions asked to parents and nurses, was the open ended questionnaire tested before use, suggest to insert a table of the questions asked, how often were these findings represented (all nurses stated …, one nurse portrayed that …), were the responses analysed per question or as a whole, the connection of the quote to the theme needs rechecking as I felt that there may have been some bias in the researchers assumption of what these responses meant (how was member checking done), more detail required in this area as I don't feel the true meaning of the participants voices have been portrayed.

Discussion
The discussion needs fully rewriting once the other areas have been re-written/revised with contemporary relevant literature.

References
References should not be older than 5 years unless portraying a historical seminal or theoretical standing, suggest looking at the critical care literature, if limited research in developing countries then justify this with supporting literature.
A great piece of work, just needs some more work. I would be happy to review a re-written version.

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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