Reviewer’s report

Title: Exploring the experiences of being an ethnic minority student within an undergraduate nursing education: A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 27 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Geraldine Lee

Reviewer's report:

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The issue of a multiculturalism is extremely relevant and this includes within university and in the nursing profession. I have concerns about this paper for the following reasons:
The authors state that anonymity of the participants was applied but yet, within table 1, there is a table with gender, age and birth place and given the paper comes from a named school of nursing, the participants would be clearly identifiable.
My second concern is that the interviews were undertaken by an academic who is involved in the students' programmes and this could be seen as coercion. Given the comments that the students make, it could be interpreted that they feel pressured into participating as they are potentially reliant on academics to pass their degree and they may have been placed in an awkward position and felt they had to participate. Given that they reported they were feeling isolated, this to me, is a major issue with this paper.

Many of the feelings around placement etc suggest there was either conscious bias or overt racism but the authors completely ignore the issue and given the current rise in anti-immigrant feeling, this paper could have been a really good opportunity to discuss the issues around multiculturalism but does not. This is disappointing.
A major methodological flaw is that there was no control group- it would be really useful to see what themes were common amongst other nursing students and what were their perceptions?

Conscious bias is an important concept but this is not addressed in the paper.

What processes are in place when students face issues with patients who refuse to engage with them in what appears to be racism (students do mention their skin color so there is no mis-interpreting this).

The role of the university in preparing students for their programmes and providing academic support is not reported. What processes are in place for students where there are academic needs? What processes are in place where students state that other students don't engage with them? How does the academic manage this in the classroom? Surely they would notice this whilst teaching and yet, there is no mention of how academics as the education providers address this.
The sample size is too small and there are some comments which are unsupported- page 2- the feelings of crisis in migrants, there is adequate evidence that young adults have higher rates of depression and anxiety than previous generation but this is not addressed. Is there evidence that these students had 'feelings in crisis'.
It is not clear if these findings would not be common in other students and this is not addressed.

There are many unsupported statements about the students- is there evidence that the students have 'faced traumatic experiences'?

With their daily demands of family and career, how can it be determined that these students have higher rates than other students when this was not examined?

I am not sure why alcohol and drinking was brought up? Are you suggesting that all of these students are Muslims? It is not clear why this is in the paper unless you are referring to culture in Norway, etc and cultural integration.

**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.

No

**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

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