Author’s response to reviews

Title: The feasibility and acceptability of collaborative learning in improving health worker performance on adolescent health: findings from implementation research in Moldova.

Authors:

Galina Lesco (galina.lesco@gmail.com)
Frances Squires (squiresf@gmail.com)
Viorel Babii (viorel.babii@gmail.com)
Nadejda Bordian (info@neovita.md)
Olga Cernetchii (nadejda007@mail.ru)
Adriane Martin Hilber (adriane.martinhilber@swisstph.ch)
Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (chandramouliv@who.int)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Many thanks for your recent correspondence about our paper, and the detailed feedback from the two reviewers. We are glad to resubmit our paper for your further consideration.

The detailed feedback from Holly Gooding was very well received. We have addressed her suggestions, including the following key points:

- “The manuscript would be strengthened by providing details from the actual study in Figure 3 (the actual inputs, processes, and outputs as described in the text, as well as the projected outcomes and impact).” We have updated Figure 3 accordingly to reflect the inputs, processes and outputs of this study.

- “An appendix which includes a lesson plan from one of the Collaborative Learning Sessions (or better yet, an online repository of all of them) would be both informative and highly useful to others intending to embark on this work.” This comment suggests a misunderstanding of the nature of the learning sessions. Because each session is collaborative and directed by the needs of the particular learning group, they do not have formal pre-developed “lesson plans.” Rather, learning is dynamic and occurs through group discussion and sharing of knowledge, skills and expertise. It is therefore not possible to share a learning plan or a repository of them.
However, we have inserted a new table (Table 2, line 212) which shows the schedule of a typical learning session. If requested, we could also include a copy of minutes from a recent collaborative learning session, but these would need to be translated from Romanian.

We were delighted that Christine Galavotti felt this paper should be published as is, and gladly noted her suggestion to update the Rowe systematic review (reference 2) with the more recent review conducted for the Lancet Commission on quality health care. To address this, we inserted an additional reference (now reference 3) which can be found in lines 96, 97 and 98.

Please note that these changes have resulted in updated reference and table numbers throughout the paper, and that the title of Figure 3 has changed.

Please also find attached a letter from the National Resource Center for Youth-Friendly Health Services in Moldova, confirming that this study met local ethics requirements.