Reviewer’s report

Title: Re-energising the way we manage change in healthcare: The case for Soft Systems Methodology and its application to evidence-based practice

Version: 1 Date: 23 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

N/A - there are no statistics in this study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author’s interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The authors are to be commended for their thorough revisions to this paper following review assessment and feedback. Most of the suggested changes have been thoroughly made and the paper is improved.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Minor suggestion: consider adding a sentence to the Background part of the Abstract explaining what SSM is (before getting to the aims of the paper) - as most readers won't be familiar with it.

One aspect of the paper that is still 'underdone' relates to the aim of "illustrate examples of how SSM has been used in healthcare". While the authors have altered the content from the original, this aim is only given little attention with just a few examples listed (in about 1 sentence). These very brief descriptions make it difficult to appreciate how SSM has been used in those examples and how it's different from the many other approaches that could be used to address the issues mentioned in the examples. Consider choosing at least a few examples and elaborating (even if in a supplementary box) HOW the studies used SSM, so that this aim of the paper is met.

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.

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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