Reviewer’s report

Title: The gap in human resources to deliver the guaranteed package of prevention and health promotion services at urban and rural primary care facilities in Mexico

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Norbert Dreesch

Reviewer's report:

Estimating the amount of human resources required to achieve specific programme goals is a complex and complicated process. The research presented mirrors the complexities involved in such an approach and exemplifies the difficulties encountered (page 14). As has often been observed, the difficulties in correctly establishing the purely health intervention-based time and the administrative and other time needed for recording, reporting and inclusion of other staff activities are also noted in this research effort, thus rendering the results in further need of adjustments to quantifying total staff needs. It is hoped that future efforts can be developed to get more accurate appraisals of staff needs taking into account all staff time needs.

1. Editorial comments:

The article needs review of English typing and spelling, and errors need to be removed prior to publication. A native English language co-author should review the article in this respect. There are multiple spelling errors throughout the article before it can be accepted for publication.

Examples:

Page 5, line 6 reads: "....to improve population's health status ...". should it not be:"to improve the population's health status ... or rather "... to improve population health status ..."? , line 8 reads "...the formal sector of economy ..." which should read "...the formal sector of the economy ...

Page 4, line 10 " .... guidelines for integrations of HR ...". The word "integration" should be spelled in singular, not plural.

Page 6, line 16 "... percentage of population ..." ... this editorial inattention has to be corrected.

Page 6 line 24, check for correct past tense of the word "implement".

Page 7, line 8: "... variables to estimate HR ..." This should read "... variables to estimate ...."

Page 9, line 3, "...similarities ..." should read "...similarities..."
lines 12/13: "...annual hours was calculated...". Correct plural form of "to be" in past tense is "were".

Page 11: lines 9 and 15: The words "different" and "differences" need correct spelling.

Page 12, line 17: English language correction needed. "This situation makes clear the importance to consider ...." This looks like an automatic translation of the direct word-by-word type (possibly from Spanish into English) and needs reformulation.

Throughout the paper, reference indication is inconsistently applied in either upper or lower case, for example, page 4, line 18.

Translation of an institutional name should be checked. For example, page 6, line 22: "...General Direction of Health Information", should it not better be indicated as "...General Directorate of ...." in addition to correcting on line 23 from "... Federal District (Mexico City) have only ... to "Federal District (Mexico City) has only ...)?

"Abbreviations" on page 14 should be checked for completeness and presented in alphabetical order.

Table 1: The column title "Pre y post partum" should be corrected to read "Pre- and postpartum"

Table 3, column 1 (Group of age) needs to be corrected to read "Age group", the Term "Pregnant woman" needs to read "Pregnant women"

2. Content

Page 2, line 5: the term "convenience sampling" is introduced. It will be helpful to include a footnote on the page with a short explanation of the term.

The SPS package contains 284 primary and secondary interventions (page 5). In order to estimate the HR needed for implementation 99 prevention and promotion activities were used to estimate the current and "ideal" HR needed to achieve the programme goals in the pilot phase. A complex statistical process has been applied to identify the correctness of the approach and HR estimates. The process applied and the results achieved will benefit from confirmation by a statistician.

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