Reviewer’s report

Title: Coping and compromise: A qualitative study of how primary health care providers respond to health reform in China

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Reviewer: Lilian Otiso

Reviewer's report:

Overall an interesting paper that addresses emerging coping needs of community health workers as a result of change of government health structures. It addresses a unique area of coping which it explores and aligns with the needs of the workers in China. The results are useful for Chinese policy but can also be useful for other countries as the author asserts.

Specific comments

Title: Globally the title Community health workers is used to denote a cadre of health workers who have received basic training, are based in the community and link with the health system with some working on a voluntary basis. In this case, CHWs refers to health workers who work in the Community Health Service of PRC including doctors and nurses. The description is appropriate for a primary health service. I suggest use of the term Primary Health Care Service providers to avoid the confusion. I also suggest use of this or other suitable term throughout the text.

See this reference 'Which intervention design factors influence performance of community health workers in low- and middle-income countries? A systematic review' Maryse C Kok,1* Marjolein Dieleman,1 Miriam Taegtmeyer,2 Jacqueline EW Broerse,3 Sumit S Kane,1 Hermen Ormel,1 Mandy M Tijm1 and Korrie AM de Koning1 Health Policy and Planning 2014;1-21

Page 3 2nd par: it is not clear if there is a new model of primary health care from the one described in paragraph one. Provide a clear definition of the CHS, BPHS and BMS.

Page 4 Par 1: CHWs get introduced in this paragraph but it is not clear who they are, what cadre, what role they play in the CHS, if they are paid or not.

Page 4 Line 4: the term 'put the policies in effect' may not be appropriate as it denotes policy makers. I suggest 'implemented'

Page 7 par 1: the section describing the CHS reforms should be in background section.
Page 8: line 4: it is not necessary to have the initials of the researchers in the text. Describe their role instead e.g. senior researchers

Page 9: table 1 - categorize participants by gender and denote them by gender in the quotes in the entire results section.

Page 10: line 5: move the quote to the end of the paragraph as it explains the content of the entire paragraph

Page 10: Line 14: good quote. Also shows workload due to trivial nature of the work

Page 12: line 6: unappreciated is a more appropriate term to unappreciated

Page 12: last paragraph: this is important information but the source is not clear. Is there a quote to describe this? Or a reference or source the author used?

Page 13: Job demands: more examples are needed to describe job demands

Page 13: Line 12-17: this paragraph and quote is ideal for describing job resources and how lack of financing is affecting them. Unless it is rewritten to show how it is a job demand

Page 14: Line 3: use the correct grammar to describe passive loyalty. The coping strategy is passive loyalty but you should state: CHW demonstrated passive loyalty

Page 16: Line 4: Do the quantitative studies referred to include the quantitative arm of this study that was mentioned in methods section and could have been analysed by others? The triangulation with that may be useful

Page 16: par 3: the description of the Chinese policies need to appear here and be referenced

Page 16: Par 4: please explain how the Ethiopian health workers attitude changed as a result of the reforms - positively or negatively in relation to the findings of this study

Page 17: line 10-14: any references?

Page 18: line 5: this explanation of why neglect was missing is not clear and it may not be necessary for the paper

Page 19: Line 6: add the need for 'availing resources for work' based on findings of the study

Page 20: Line 14: the last sentence is hanging and can be removed or moved elsewhere.

Others: overall a lot of grammatical errors that need to be addressed across the paper.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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