Reviewer’s report

Title: Performance of community health workers: situating their intermediary position within complex adaptive health systems

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Reviewer: Lucimare Ferraz

Reviewer's report:

The article "Performance of community health workers: situating their intermediary position within complex adaptive health systems" discusses an extremely relevant issue concerning Public Health, especially in under-development countries or developing ones. The manuscript describes and analyzes the factors that influence on the performance of health community workers, lay workers who constitute the link between the community and health services. As a suggestion for the qualification of this article, the term "systematic literature review" should be substituted by "narrative literature review". Such suggestion is due to the fact that a systematic literature review demands strict requirements of selection and analysis of the manuscripts, considering that all steps of such methodology need to be described in detail in the article. In this article, it is not clearly observed and the review does not seem to be a systematic one, in fact, it seems to be a narrative one. A narrative review consists of a selection of studies whose subject is in the researchers’ interests, meeting the research aims, however, without presenting a strict and complex selection of the papers. Besides the methodological issue, I suggest that an overview should be done about the results, as the factors "hardware" and "software"; "intrinsic" and "extrinsic (collective)" that influence on the work process of health community workers. It is also necessary to mention this overview in the abstract as well. After considering these suggestions, I also recommend that this article should be published because of important information it points out about the health community workers, bringing about some reflection on the factors that interfere in their performance related to poor community care.

Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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