Reviewer’s report

Title: Health system response for physician workforce shortages and the upcoming crisis in Ethiopia: a grounded theory research

Version: 0 Date: 29 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Eric O'Flynn

Reviewer’s report:

1. Highly relevant in the context of rapid expansion of medical training in many low and middle income countries.

2. Interesting comments and anecdotes. The candor of the opinions recorded is impressive and the anecdotes enlightening.

3. Useful and appropriate range of interviewees.

4. In the background section, the authors state the aim of the study as being "to discover views and opinions of different stakeholders... on how the rapid scale up on (sic) physician workforce production has been taking place" (p.5). In advance of this statement, however, the authors state that "the country without making appropriate preparation started to expand the medical education program..." (p.3). Such a value judgement should be reserved for the conclusions section, as it can then be seen as backed up by the evidence presented throughout the article.

5. A qualitative methodology is employed and no attempt to classify responses in different categories is presented. As this is the case, statements such as "most respondents have similar views of massive production" (p.13) should either not be included or backed up with some kind of quantitative data. The methods section explains that the methodology employed enabled the researchers to "group similar events, patterns and opinions" (p.7). This suggests that "most respondents" and "similar views" could in some way be quantified.

6. The quality of English language employed is in need of improvement, though this rarely seems to impede understanding

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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