Reviewer’s report

Title: Human resource for health reform in peri-urban areas: an exploratory study of the impact of policy interventions on healthcare workers in Epworth, Zimbabwe

Version: 0 Date: 14 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Ian Douglas

Reviewer's report:

A most interesting topic and a useful set of findings, but there is not enough background on the nature of these peri-urban areas for readers outside southern Africa to understand the problems that community health workers face. More background is needed on Epworth: what sort of community is it? Do people face public health issues because of inadequate water and sanitation? Do they have security of tenure and adequate opportunities for employment. Such issues are fundamental to public health generally and affect the stresses health workers face.

The general literature on peri-urban areas is ignored. Some additional references to earlier on peri-urban health in Africa are required. A review paper by Birley and Lock is attached.

There are many weakness in sentence structure and grammar. I have drawn attention to some of these on the attached pdf. In particular there is varying use of "human resource" and "human resources". I suggest to be consistent use "human resource" as an adjective (e.g. human resource issues) and human resources as a noun. Sometimes the definite (the) on indefinite (a) article is missing.

I think that correlation coefficients should be given to two places of decimal places only as the sample population is only 87.

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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