Reviewer's report

Title: 'Practice so that that skill does not disappear': Mixed methods evaluation of simulator based learning for midwives in Uganda

Version: 0 Date: 30 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Conrad Musinguzi

Reviewer's report:

Study title

This statement isn't necessary, it can be more made shorter and clearer. There seems to be a spelling error too. A statement like "Practice makes perfect." Mixed methods evaluation of simulator-based practice for midwives in Uganda would be a better alternative.

Background: Your background should have statistics on maternal mortality indicators. Deaths due to postpartum hemorrhage and neonatal asphyxia and any level of training in this area. There are a number of training for example didactic, facility based, etc., why did you think simulation is a better approach, some literature would guide the reader better.

Study objective

Please re-write this statement. Was the objective of this study to evaluate or determine. This seems confusing.

Study methodology:

1. The information below doesn't illustrate a study design. Solution-Please review State the design explicitly and then you can describe it.

2. Does this study adhere to all the prerequisites of a trail? If yes, then what type of trail was this? If no, then drop it and re-write the statement.

3. Where is arm1?
4. Based on the methodology, this isn't and evaluation but a qualitative-cross sectional study. Please verify. An evaluation should have a before and after component.

5. This study wants to understand the effect of training sessions (LDHF) on delivery skills that can prevent postpartum hemorrhage. I expect to an assessment of this skills before the training and after the training

6. There is too much redundant information in this section and it need to be organized systematically.

7. I think you should simply tell us which tools were used to collect data to answer the questions/objectives. How the key variables were captured. State the key variables and how they were collected.

8. What is the rationale of conducting a Focus group discussion? Which information do you seek? This applied to the key informant discussions too

Discussion

Please discuss your findings in relation to available literature. Start by stating your finding/result, then explain why you see this result in relation to available literature.

Conclusion

This conclusion is not aligned to objectives or the results.

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
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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