Reviewer’s report

Title: The children's nursing workforce in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, South Africa and Zambia: generating an initial indication of the extent of the workforce and training activity

Version: 0 Date: 09 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Sylvester C Chima

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript could be enhanced by including additional data such as?

1. What is the exact population of children (paediatric population - people aged less than 18 years) in the 5 selected countries. The authors have only provide a broad description on Page 2, Lines 16-18 where they said "Close to half the population in many African countries is aged under 18 [3]". However, this is very non-specific and it is difficult to compare the number of available paediatric nurses to the needs of the 5 countries studied?...Therefore it would be helpful and useful to report the exact statistics of the paediatric populations (people aged less than 18 years) in the countries studied … To clearly identify whether the number of "children's nurses" being produced is adequate or inadequate for the current needs and future population growth.

2. The authors have also failed to provide any indication of the recommended ratio of paediatric nurses per population, or country, either based on WHO recommendations or other global health organizations/ indicators… So as to compare whether the selected African countries are meeting up to the expected standard, or lagging behind…And if so, to what extent the current training programme ought to be escalated to meet the required needs.

3. The only country the authors reported to have a reasonable number of Paediatric nurses is South Africa at 3200. It would be helpful to compare the ratio of South African paediatric nurses to those in comparable countries such as Australia and New Zealand to assess if South Africa is meeting up with the expected standard or lagging behind..?... And the potential future needs for Paediatric nurses in South Africa
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