Reviewer’s report

Title: Migration Intentions of Asian and African Medical Students Educated in China: A Cross Sectional Study

Version: 0 Date: 29 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Niamh Humphries

Reviewer's report:

This is potentially an interesting article, but it needs more work before it's ready for publication

*  The aim of the article needs to be clarified and overall the connection between the background, methods and discussion/conclusion needs to be strengthened. There are several issues raised for the first time in the discussion, which should be introduced earlier in the paper.

*  An issue which needs to be discussed from the outset (background) is whether international medical students require visas to study in China? And how easy it would be for these student visas to be converted into working visas post-graduation, i.e. is remaining on to work in China an option for these international medical students? Would language be an issue for them in seeking to obtain work in China post-graduation, given that their medical studies are in English? Are they opting to study in China (via English) and then to migrate onwards to an English speaking country?

  o  This is mentioned on P11L45, but has a huge bearing on the onward migration plans of these internationally trained students! Needs to be discussed in greater detail in the background of the article.

*  You need to discuss this migration in terms of the fact that these students are moving from lower income countries to China, an upper middle income country and whether this move is a 'stepping' stone to a higher income country?

Terminology

*  Throughout the article, it's important to clearly define what you mean by each term and use the same terms throughout:

  o  Developed/underdeveloped countries. Perhaps be more specific using terms like higher income/lower income countries according to World Bank or similar?

  o  Donor/recipient countries. Source/destination often used, but again important to define.

  o  Foreign destination/abroad-staying

  o  Mobile talents’ migration choices: do you mean the migration choices of migrant doctors or migrant health workers or internationally trained medical students?

  o  Abroad-educated or overseas medical students or IMGs?

Abstract: is your aim to profile internationally trained medical students in China? Is the idea also to see whether they plan to remain in China post-graduation, or migrate onwards? This articles by Hawthorne
might be of relevance here:

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/011719681001900102

Background:

P4L10: paying lower tuition fees than where? Home country?
P4L51: input years instead of 'so far'
P4L53-59: what other options exist? And what does your article add to this literature on overseas medical students in China?

Methods:
Include details of research ethics approval
What was the response rate?
How did you negotiate access to the medical school?
P5L56: how many international students are in this university? How many did you distribute the survey to?
P6L12: future migration choices or migration plans, post-graduation?
P6L41: by grade do you mean year of medical training. How long is medical training in China? Are these students studying medicine via undergraduate or postgraduate programme?
P7L40: 268? Or 266 (as in the abstract?)
P8L5: explain 'countries with health crisis'

Results
P7L44: are they still medical students if they have completed internship?
Explain that 'migration intentions' means intentions post graduation? Or post internship?
Do international medical students require visas to study in China? Is it easy for these student visas to be converted into working visas (i.e. is remaining on in China, post graduation) an option for these international medical students? Would language be an issue for them in seeking to obtain work in China post graduation, given that their medical studies are in English?

Discussion: There are several issues raised for the first time in the discussion, which should be introduced earlier in the paper. There needs to be a better connection between the abstract/background/methods/findings and the discussion/conclusion.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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