Reviewer’s report

Title: A scoping review on Family Medicine in sub-Saharan Africa: Definition, practice and positioning in African health care systems

Version: 1 Date: 17 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Robert Mash

Reviewer's report:

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Abstract/Background: Did you really make a distinction between effectiveness and impact in the review?

Abstract/Background: say “effectiveness and impact, in order to identify…”

Abstract/Methods: say “conducted by systematically”

Abstract/Methods: say “from 2000 onwards and in English language, were included.”

Abstract/Methods: in my view the Primafamed network should have no hyphen and no capital N for network. Note throughout.

Abstract/Methods: Add comma “Gauteng, 2018”

Abstract/Results: What “needs” are referred to? How does this differ from “local situation”?

Abstract/Results: “This is in contrast..” This sentence is not a finding, this is discussion. Delete sentence

Abstract/Results: Suggest replacing with “Most FPs were deployed in district hospitals and levels of the health system, other than primary care.”

Abstract/conclusions: rephrase as “FM is a developing discipline in SSA.”

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Background:

Grammar: Add comma “focused on primary health care (PHC), which provides care…”

Rephrase “no-one behind in pursuing the”
Grammar: Don't start a sentence with and.

Rephrase “in SSA this is primarily”

Rephrase “(secondary/ tertiary) and are often based in”

Comment: Isn't “skills mix” usually used to refer to skills in a mix of different health workers. Maybe competencies is a better word?

Comment: FPs have clinical leadership role in all teams, including the DH, not just PHC. Should this sentence be part of the preceding paragraph.

Rephrase: “The development of the discipline was strengthened by…”

Rephrase: “At a global level there is evidence that FM is cost-effective and delivers good health outcomes,…”

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Remove "in SSA" at end of sentence – repetition

Rephrase “This scoping review started by looking…”

Rephrase: “to provide an overview of existing evidence of…”

Rephrase: “of a research strategy to provide additional evidence”

Rephrase: “at the time of this review”

Rephrase: “SSA was published.”

Methods:

Correct: “The scoping review was conducted…”

Rephrase: “subject heading (MeSH) terms”

Rephrase: “final list of selected articles”

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Comment: "The first author combined…excluded" this seems to be belong earlier in the description between "...articles". and "A total of 103..."
Comment: "Key findings of these...Ariadne Labs." This seems to repeat what is also said in the section below. Does it belong there?

Comment: Limitations of the methods are usually discussed in the discussion.

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Rephrase: “find value in FM, other stakeholders (Textbox 7) have different perspectives on the discipline.(4)"

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Comment: "communicator, collaborator, consultant" This does not quite make sense. Are you saying they are an intermediary between non-physician primary care providers and hospital specialists?

Apostrophe: “The FP’s niche...”

Comment: "the setting and the needs” whose or what needs does this refer to?

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Rephrase: “need to have additional training”

Rephrase: “in surgery, otolaryngology...”

Rephrase: “The practice of FM varies from country to country,”

Rephrase: “country's health system”

Rephrase: “: socially accountable…”

Rephrase: “, adaptation to existing health care system”

Rephrase: “and ongoing development of the competencies”

Author: rm Subject: Inserted Text Date: 2019/10/17 16:23:41

Discussion:

Rephrase: “to the existing health care system”
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Grammar: “that is fluid, adjusting”
Comment: Sentence beginning "the dichotomy..." -meaning unclear
Rephrase: “their context.(50)”
Rephrase: “the majority of which...”
Comment: "Increased financial resources..." sentence incomplete
Rephrase: “Such insights also led to a better understanding...”
Rephrase: “fewer findings were...”

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Rephrase: “Although the Lancet argued that FM is "so integral to the path towards the SDGs that reference [to it] in a goal or target would undermine its cross-cutting role", more evidence is still crucial.”

Grammar:
Conclusions:
Rephrase: “In most settings, FPs are placed...”
Rephrase: “FPs are placed in district hospitals and work from there with PHC teams.”
Rephrase: “forefront, to reach UHC...”
Spelling: Saharan

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Table 1: text says either criteria 4 or 5, which is not quite the same as both being optional? – correct.
Table 1: Implementation: what is meant by the word organization here?
Table 1: Spelling – Saharan
Table 1: Comment: In the article effectiveness and impact are seen as separate outcomes, while here impact is seen as synonymous with effectiveness?

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Table 2: SA: Column4: Correct: “At all levels of care; in primary, secondary and tertiary care setting. The FP functions at the district level, in district clinical specialist teams, at district hospitals and in health centres or sub-districts with multiple clinics. In rural as well as urban areas.”

Table 2: NB SA now has 9 training programmes in country – SA

Table 2: Nigeria: Column1: Rephrase: “entered the Nigerian”

Table 2: Nigeria: Column4: Rephrase “universities” – not the staff.

Table 2: now 5 training programmes in country – Kenya

Table 2: Botswana: Column3: “Generalist doctors who can function within primary hospitals and”

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Figure 2: when you use abbreviations should you use the proper abbreviation for the journal?

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Figure 5: this role of capacity builder would also be seen as applying to DH team

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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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