Reviewer’s report

Title: Contemporary Issues in North-South Health Research Partnerships: Perspectives of Health Research Stakeholders in Zambia

Version: 0 Date: 18 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Selina Defor

Reviewer's report:

RESEARCH QUESTION AND OBJECTIVE

The rationale of the study /objective needs further clarification and improvement. In light of the literature review, one does not really see the gap that the study is seeking to fill.

North-South partnership has been criticized in a substantial body of literature as providing less benefits to southern countries involved in such partnerships. The debates have included issues relating to research agenda setting, power and capacity imbalances, access to and control over funding .....Partners from HICs have also been reported to include implicit and explicit conditions which comparatively disadvantage Southern partners. Several authors have also emphasized the inequitable sharing of Post-research benefit including unequal access to intellectual properties resulting from the collaborative work.

METHODOLOGY

The description of the conceptual framework should be discussed as part of the methodological approaches underpinning the study

RESULTS

Several themes seems to have emerged from the data analysis but it is not clear why the author focused attention only on factors negatively affecting the functioning of partnerships - input process, throughput processes and output output processes.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The interpretation of the study findings are supported by sufficient data but some results appear overly interpreted with too many repetitions.
A good number of frameworks exist to address these issues of inequity in North-South Partnership, for example; the Swiss Commission for Research Partnership with Developing Countries. Guidelines for research in partnership with developing countries, it would have been quite interesting to interpret some of the results in light of any of these agreed upon principles.

OVERALL

The paper should be copy edited, a few typos identified:

Line 146, include 'the ' after 'of, The study explored some of 'the' elements........

Line 288, remove 'the', in addition to having ......

Line 315, remove 'in'....among southern partners

Line 458, recognition of southern partner's ability to contribute or southern partner's contribution....

The sentence in line 181-183 is quite unclear and must be reconstructed.

Level of interest
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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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