Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Experiences of Capacity Strengthening in Sanitation and Hygiene Research in Africa and Asia: the SHARE Research Consortium

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 25 Feb 2019

**Reviewer:** Carolyn Patricia Mulipukwa

**Reviewer's report:**

1. **Abstract**
   - The background talks more about what SHARE is. I would like to know more about the capacity building activities that are being carried out in the SHARE approach.
   - The method sounds more like the aim of your research or the reason why this paper was written.
   - The results sound more like the method used in the research.
   - Line 34 page 1: replace the word 'strageies' with 'strategies'
   - Some figures to back the successes would be interesting. Are the results different from those researches which were not supported, did not have mentorship or not funded. Perhaps you are trying to say that SHARE provided the opportunity for these researches to be done. Please clarify.
   - To support your conclusion it would have been helpful if your results showed evidence of capacity building programs not being tailored to local context and planned without the partner research institutions fail.
   - The recommendations sound familiar and a bit too obvious

2. **Introduction**
   - Under the sub heading 'Sanitation and Hygiene' I suggest you define sanitation and hygiene to guide the reader on exactly what you are focusing on.
   - You can also include some reasons why sanitation and hygiene are lacking in some countries: eg poverty, illiteracy, ineffective policies, civil unrest etc. You can then narrow down on how the SHARE program comes in to try and solve these causes of poor sanitation and hygiene.
   - Under the sub heading 'Introduction to the SHARE program' i am curious to know which countries you are reffering to when you say'Southern Researchers and institutions' line 20 page 3.

3. **Methods**
   - Line 34 page 3 replace the word 'learned' with 'learnt'
   - Line 36 page 3 replace the word 'about' with 'on'
   - This section is too brief. Most of the information that is supposed to be here is under the 'Results' section

4. **Results**
   - Consider removing the first paragraph 'The capacity ...... in each phase.' As this point has already been made.
   - Under the sub heading 'Capacity building during SHARE phase 1': consider presenting the aims and
activities in tabular form
- Line 7 page 4: There should be a space between the words 'Diarrheal' and 'Disease'
- Line 29 page 4: add a 'u' to the word 'contry'. This should read 'country'
- Line 34 page 4: add a 'd' to the word 'balance'. This should read 'balanced'
- Line 36 page 4: replace the word 'countries' with 'country'
- Line 46 page 4: The sentences 'All the students .... PHD training period' and 'During phase 1 ..... research outputs'. Should be put under the results sub heading
- Under the sub heading 'Capacity building SHARE phase 2: Line 12 page 6 add an 's' to the word 'other'. This should read 'others'
- Line 20 page 6: add a space between the words 'summarize' and 'key'
- Line 27 page 6: add a 'd' to the word 'encourage'. This should read 'encouraged'
- Line 44 page 6: add a space between the words 'to' and 'organise'
- Line 38 page 7: add a space between the words 'quarterly' and 'reports'
- Consider adding those paragraphs on pages 4 and 5 to this section
- It would be great if you could add the numbers of policies that have been influenced by papers published under the SHARE program and the networks formed that are addressing the issues affecting sanitation and hygiene

5. Discussion
- The first sentence in the discussion best sums up what the paper is about. It should be brought out in the introduction
- Line 14 page 8: replace the word 'santiation' with the word 'sanitation'
- Line 26 page 8: add a space between the words 'complaint' and 'form'
- Line 33 page 8: add a space between the words 'universities' and 'is'
- Line 39 page 8: replace the word 'currently' with 'current'.

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

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

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal