Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 18 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Justin Pulford

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript centred on a topic of increasing academic interest; namely, health research capacity strengthening. However, the manuscript is something of an anomaly in that it is drafted according to the conventions of an original research submission (intro, methods, results, discussion), yet does not present research findings. It is primarily for this reason that I do not believe the manuscript is suitable for publication in its present form. The manuscript content, consisting of a description of the capacity building components of the SHARE consortium and some relatively uncritical (arguably highly biased) reflection on them, appears better suited to a commentary-style submission. I would encourage the authors to redraft and resubmit the manuscript in this more appropriate style, although a substantial reduction in word count would probably be required. With that in mind, I would focus the commentary on the specific elements of the capacity building programme which may be considered most innovative. In my opinion, this would include the structured mentoring programme built into Phase 1 and the capacity development plans built into phase 2. Thus, the focus of the commentary could be innovative programme features that have 'added value' to standard capacity building activities such as training, learning by doing and scholarship provision.

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