Author's response to reviews

Title: The burden of pertussis in low and middle-income countries since the inception of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 1974: a systematic review protocol

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editor

Thank you again for the privilege to submit the revised manuscript, “The burden of pertussis in low and middle-income countries since the inception of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 1974: a systematic review protocol” to your journal. All comments have been attended to and corrections to the manuscript highlighted in yellow.

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Editor comment 1:

"In line 2, there is a typo - "Town" is missing

Response to comment 1:

This has been corrected and the missing word inserted (Line 2)

Editor comment 2:

In line 23, the authors state "Risk of bias will be minimised by assessing all ...." The authors need to rephrase this. Assessing risk of bias gives the research team insight into risk of bias of the included studies. However, the assessment itself will not minimize the bias.

Response to comment 2:

We agree with the comment. An error occurred when summarising our methods for the abstract. The sentence has been rephrased to read:

“Risk of bias will be evaluated by assessing all qualifying full-text articles for quality and eligibility using a modified quality score assessment tool.” (Lines 23-24).

Editor comment 3:

There is no statement about whether the authors received funding for the research. Can they explicitly report on this.

Response to comment 3:

A formal statement has been added under subheading “Acknowledgements” (Lines 284-285):

“Acknowledgements

The authors received no external funding for this research project.”

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Thanking you in anticipation.

Rudzani Muloiwa
Cape Town, RSA