Reviewer’s report

Title: Rehabilitation approaches for children living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa: a protocol for scoping review

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Ferdinand Mukumbang

Reviewer's report:

Scoping review on rehabilitation approaches for children living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article. I have divided my report under two headings

Major concerns

The authors are proposing to scope the literature from 2012 - 2018. In the background, it was mentioned that a scoping review has been conducted up to 2012. Nevertheless, the authors did not explain the reason for their choice of study period. If it is indeed because there is an existing review covering previous years up to 2012, then the authors should indicate that the purpose of this study is to update the existing scoping review.

Line 173: The authors write "Peer reviewed published literature in the last decade (2012-2019) ..." There are two potential issues with this sentence. (1) The period 2012 - 2019 is not a decade. Secondly, in lines 152 the stipulated period is from 2012-2018, which indicates a discrepancy to the one indicated in line 173.

Exclusion/Inclusion criteria: Are other reviews included or excluded?

The authors indicated that in the second step that there would be some terms that will be used to search the databases. However, in the first step for searching Medline and CINHAL, there are no MeSH terms or otherwise that are indicated to be used for searching.

Lines 257-258: It is unclear exactly how the authors plan to do a comparison of the efficacy of the various rehabilitation interventions. First, there will be different interventions (pears and oranges). These comparisons will not be informative.
Minor concerns

Lines 58 - 61: "This scoping review synthesizes existing evidence on rehabilitation intervention strategies used to increase functioning and removing disability-related barriers in children living with HIV and disability in sub-Saharan Africa." The way this sentence is written is suggestive that the review has already been conducted. I would therefore, propose that the authors should consider writing the sentence as a proposal. For example: This scoping review protocol proposes a synthesize existing evidence…"

The sentence on lines 121-123 requires at least a reference.

Line 138-139: This sentence sounds confusing especially when connected to the proceeding sentence.

There is a mixture of British and American English in the manuscript. The authors should consider selecting one for the purposes of consistency.

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

An article of importance in its field that should be highlighted to relevant networks

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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