Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Addisu Melese

Reviewer's report:

Title better to be modified as "Rehabilitation approaches for children living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa: a protocol for scoping review"

Abstract

Should be formatted/structured (methods should be started with new paragraph). In addition, the abstract is part of (taken from) the background/introduction of the manuscript but I can't find it there. Where did you take the abstract from?

Lines 60-61: removing disability-related barriers in children living with HIV and disability … can we remove all disability related barriers in settings where resources are limited? Better to use better term than removing.

Line 64: children aged 5-10 years living with HIV….why only children aged 5-10? What about children less than 5 and above 10 years?

Line 65: MEDLINE instead of PubMed is to be searched. Why not PubMed as it is a a data base that indexes more studies than MEDLINE?

Lines 74-75: better to move to the discussion part of the abstract
Key words are too much (better to reduce)

Line 117: needs citation

Lines 130-134: If a scoping review on the current topic is done, why you are interested to conduct another review? Can't be a duplicate?

Line 152: Why only the period from 2012-2018 is to be included?

Line 179: Peer reviewed published literature in the last decade (2012-2019) but it was said previously (line 152) as it covers the period from 2012-218. It is inconsistent and needs to make consistent.

Line 178: aged 5-10 years what about children less than 5 and above 10?
Line 200: Articles published between 2012 and 2019. Is it 2012-2018 or 2019 as previously asked?

Line 212 (exclusion criteria): Evidence from resource rich high-income countries. Are there any Sub-Saharan African countries with rich high income countries? How could it be exclusion criteria as the study (in the title) is on SSA?

Line 216: Is Medline give better citation or PubMed? PubMed gives broader studies and it is reported as PubMed is used instead of Medline in additional file 1 (see it again)

Lines 235-238: may be separately inserted as search strategy/search terms

Line 264: quality of included studies, what is MMAT? Better to include it as additional file or other means. In addition, three reviewers (line 269) will be appraising the quality of studies. Who are these reviewers?

Lines 279-274: the types of studies to be included are mentioned. What do category one, two, three, four,…..types of studies? Is there another way to describe these types of studies like cohort, case control, cross-sectional and the like?

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**Quality of written English**
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No