Reviewer’s report

Title: Using an equity-based framework for evaluating publicly-funded health insurance programmes as an instrument of UHC in Chhattisgarh State, India

Version: 0 Date: 29 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Joyce Shatilwe

Reviewer's report:

Kindly see my comments:
The study is very good and it is highly recommended, however it needs major changes before it is approved for publication.

1. Method section under abstracts line 28 - 40, some important data bases such as PsyINFO, EBSCOhost, Google Scholar and Emerald, is there any reason may be?
2. Background: Background too generalized and not focused. The researcher should provide the background information about the study phenomenon. Define the study phenomenon to put it into context. Provide the nature and extend of the research problem (show some statistics to convince the reader). Indicate the contributing factors. What has been done to address the problem? What may need to be done further to address the problem? What is the main aim of the study and what will come out of the proposed research? The last sentence under background just summarize the three questions.
3. Methods under search strategy section: line 34 - 39, Key words used too many, where all this used key words used during search, this might lead the study to be too broad and not focused.
4. Methods under eligibility criteria, no time period where indicated, please clarify?
5. Methods under study selection, line 27 mentioned about the protocol, was it published?
6. Methods under Data extraction, it is not clear as to whether a tool was developed for data extraction and how was its quality determined?
7. Quality assessment of included studies: What was the average quality for included studies and what was the range (lowest and highest)?
8. Results Section is not well presented in terms of subsections. It would been better if the researcher could have some subsection under results section such as journal selection, search and study selection, characteristics of the studies etc.
9. Results section is not clear, the researcher could have at least give a highlight on the following: Report all the outcomes reported in the included studies based on your themes, focus on each outcome and provide details of findings, provide a narrative account of the findings. Make sure the following questions are answered for each outcome: How many studies reported on this outcome? Which country where they conducted in, who were the participants in this study? What were the outcomes? What are the research gaps revealed for this study?
10. Page 8, Themes has been discussed without prior mentioned in the document. It would be better if the theme could have been indicated somewhere. And For each theme, it would have been good if the researcher could have indicated which identified study discuss that specific theme. In some cases you may find a theme being discussed in more than one identified studies, in summary what are the findings found in those studies with regards to each specific themes.
11. There is still room to improve the discussion section, it is well presented however the layout will need some improvements, I would suggest if the subheadings can be removed and discuss it without that. I would also suggest if it can be shortened as well without compromising the quality of the
findings. Kindly make sure that the following is also attended to especially in the beginning of the discussion section: Revisit the aim of the study, provide a summary of the key findings - before you go into details for each findings. How does your key findings relate to the relevant policies and guidelines in place - you may refer to international policies and guidelines that countries need to implement i.e SDG, WHO guidelines and recommendations, UHC etc? Towards the end of your discussion section indicate: What are the strengths of your study? What are the limitations of this study? What are your recommendations for practice and research based on the findings? What is the take home message on your key findings of this study? Please take note, you may also look at the comparison during this section where you look at similarities, differences etc. of other studies done based on your findings. For instance based on your findings, how is the situation different in developed countries on specific findings compare to developing countries, did you find similar studies talking about a similar findings as your findings etc

12. Conclusion section: Kindly limit the section to 4-5 sentences.
Thank you and good luck.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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

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No