

Review of: "School instability in South Africa: a Systematic Review of Reflections and Experiences for a way forward"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors aim to provide a systematic review of school instability in South Africa. This is quite a relevant as research in this area can pave the way for sustainable solutions to ensure safe school environments for effective teaching and learning. However, the authors need to improve the quality of their paper in the following areas for this goal to be achieved;

1. There is need for appropriate editing of the manuscript. For instance, some in-text citations are wrong or simply just avoided in pertinent areas. APA specifies that the following citation on Asong and others should be written as.... (Asong et al., 2016) rather than (Asong et al. (2016) - see first sentence in the second paragraph of the introduction. Similarly, there are several sweeping statements such as recent research shows that.... but no evidence of this research.
2. The transition of information across paragraphs and sections are flawed. For instance, after the introduction, authors just turn to Bronfenbrenner's theory without prior notice that such theoretical discussions will follow, neither does the discussion succinctly capture the issues of school instability. Similarly, there is some inconsistency in writing as authors indicated in the 'violence and crime...' section that the research of Burton & Leoschut (2013) buttressed school abuse, however, they presented figures authored by different researchers (see fig 1 & 2). Again, the authors dedicated a section on violence outside schools but rather provide a discussion on students' leadership roles which is assumed to be a solution to school violence.
3. Overall, the way the paper has been written deviates from the format of a systematic review. The paper does not indicate the methods used in the review process; how did they select the papers for review? what criteria for inclusion? what dominant view? etc. It is mainly perceptive, therefore, it is advisable for the authors to modify their paper title to reflect this activity, for instance, " Experiences of school violence in Kwa....., South Africa"