

Review of: "Decolonisation of Health in East Africa: Opinion Piece"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for your constructive take on the decolonisation discussion. Far too many papers these days point out the flaws but without providing helpful strategies to rectify this in the future. The development of localized training materials is so important. I enjoyed reading your article and it was well written.

Some comments for future consideration:

a) This article is still written from a UK perspective. It would be nice to balance the voice of the article such that African authors' voice is also reflected. How did they find this engagement with the UK, what did they find beneficial, and was this a collaborative engagement from their perspective? Articles need to go beyond 'including' African authors but also be written from the African perspective.

b) It would be interesting to hear about the approach to working as mutual and equal partners. The UK expertise benefitted Tanzania but what lessons did the UK health staff involved learn from Tanzanians. There is such value in learning from local culture and customs that could aid health systems in the West. In particular, this article would benefit from a reflection by the UK practitioners on their own colonial biases they had to overcome when partnering with Africa. You write a lot about what the UK / North should do but change only comes about when individuals shift their mindsets. So hearing more personal reflections from how you had to change your approach would be very interesting.

c) The second photo of the group of, I assume, English health staff, I would reconsider. Photos are open for interpretation and it was striking to me that there were no East African colleagues in this group. Try to avoid images that could give the sense of 'us' vs 'them', especially if inclusion is a key point you are trying to make.

d) I found the section about disabilities a bit distracting - you presented a strong focus with the material on Africa and I would suggest keeping the focus there.