

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

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It is an interesting paper. It states explicitly that it is an opinion piece, not a narrative or systematic review. Hence it does have the risk of a top-down approach where the authors hold an opinion and the evidence put forward has been selectively picked to substantiate the opinion. That said it is still a thought-provoking piece and can be expected to encourage debate and discussion.

My specific comments are:

1. I am not sure why 'reverse brain drain' is mentioned on page 2. Reverse brain drain would be IMGs returning to their home countries, or the return of immigrants from developed countries back to lower and middle income countries. What is described here is increasing brain drain with more and more professionals coming from Africa to the UK.
2. I could think of some other streams of work between UK organisations and overseas and feel that these are relevant to the discussion.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bilateral-agreement-between-the-uk-and-kenya-on-healthcare-workforce-collaboration>

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/improving-care/volunteering-abroad>

<https://global.hee.nhs.uk/ipgmts/>

<https://www.aomrc.org.uk/medical-training-initiative/>

<https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/treatment-care/mental-health-gap-action-programme>

I wonder if the authors could include some of these within the paper. The consciousness that there needs to be a partnership rather than the mindset of 'helping out' lower and middle income countries exists in organisations. That is the way forward. Even if the UK invests in Africa but comes with the philosophy that the colonisers are now apologising and paying back for what was taken, it still holds a hierarchical approach. The authors do mention partnerships but a discussion around some initiatives in partnership already being tried out would enrich the paper further.