

Review of: "Exploring Clinicians' Experiences of Accessing Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Drug Susceptibility Testing Services from Health Centers in Blantyre"

Farida Islahudin

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The abstract can be improved by adding the main themes identified in the study.

Would recommend adding references to these statements: According to a WHO report in 2021, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) worldwide; 6 million men, 3.4 million women, and 1.2 million children. TB is present in all countries and age groups. A total of 1.6 million people died from TB in 2021 worldwide.

To discuss early detection of TB and its importance in the introduction.

State which tests are usually required for early detection.

Please give a little background of the area studied - Zingwangwa, Gateway, and Ndirande health centers. Are these primary health care centres in Blantyre?

MBBS4 - please elaborate.

Some of the activities during the period involved data collection, data analysis, and preparation of presentations. The sixth week was used for research dissemination. - Unclear what this is.

Exclusion criteria? These should include potential study participants who meet the inclusion criteria but have characteristics that could interfere with the outcome of the study. Please state what the exclusion criteria were for this study.

The final report of our study findings will be shared with the course coordinator, DHO, COMREC, KUHES library, and our research supervisor. Thereafter, the results will be published.- Not clear whether this is required.

MSCE- elaborate?

4 major themes emerged: 1) Experiences when sending and receiving samples, 2) Challenges faced by clinicians, and 3) Methods of improving DST services. - But only 3 is mentioned here.

In the discussion - discuss the recommended time to receive results for appropriate and timely treatment? Discuss the difference in the current findings.

The study revealed that most of the participants submit their samples to their local laboratories, which are within the

compound of the facility, and if there was a need for confirmation of rifampicin resistance and MDR, the sample was sent to CHSU.- To add a little background to what the recommended practice is in sending samples to laboratories in other areas? Is this the same with your findings? What are ways that can be done to improve this?

Elaborate on methods to improve services. Are there any other works that identify or apply similar methods with success? What are the possible challenges in carrying this out?

Check that abbreviations have been spelt out in full the first time they are used.