

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors raised a number of important points about health care in East Africa and in African in general. I applaud the authors for the important work they are doing in Tanzania and in east Africa. However, it is not quite evident what the focus of the piece is about. This is because of the way these ideas have been presented in the article. The article should be structured to provide the reader a definition of decolonization, an overview of the "principles of decolonizing medicine" in East Africa, why this not happening, how UK government policies derail or undermine this process and finally what the authors are doing to address this and what still needs to be done to decolonize health in East Africa.

Here are a few issues with the article:

It is not clear why the abstract refers to the National Health Service (NHS) or why this is necessary. The abstract can highlight the major issues in the health care system in East Africa that are attributed to colonization and/or provide some context on decolonization.

The piece should begin with an introduction of the authors' definition and conceptualization of decolonization. It is important that this context is provided the readers of the article. This statement from the section on Changing Clinical Priorities and Practice: "A recent British Medical Journal (BMJ) editorial encouraged us all to be "brave, hopeful and essential" in decolonizing health", should be moved to the introduction. This should be followed up with some context on decolonization.

It is also important to provide an overview of the effects and influences of colonization on the present status of health in East Africa. For instance, explain how the current system is a legacy of colonization and how current policies continue to exploit African countries in general and East Africa in general. This background is important for the reader to appreciate the magnitude and implications of the problem that the authors are addressing in their piece.

The authors highlight important issues of brain drain. However, it is not clear how the authors can identify this as a major factor affecting health in East Africa on one hand and complain about the aggressive and negative UK immigration policies on the other. I suggest the section on Politics focus on any current policies that continue to harm the health and health care system. See: Sparke, M. (2020). Neoliberal regime change and the remaking of global health: from rollback disinvestment to rollout reinvestment and reterritorialization. *Review of International Political Economy*, 27(1), 48-74. Brain drain of health care workers can be discussed here as part of the global imbalance that continues to undermine health in East Africa. Colonization was exploitative, selective immigration policies that disproportionately favor health care workers

continue this exploitation.

The authors should consider rephrasing this term: “ordinary Africans”.