

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Hi Clive, and co-authors,

Thank you for writing this interesting opinion piece in a vibrant and emerging area of research. I enjoyed reading your paper and I would like to share my feedback in a constructive manner to help you strengthen your work and engage with the wider decoloniality and health literature.

First, I would like to congratulate you on selecting a deeply needed topic investigating uncharted territories in global health. The literature of how decoloniality is emerging as a social determinant of health is growing and your work contributes to this deeply needed emerging evidence. Despite the limited research in this area, I believe the opinion piece would benefit from stronger engagement with the existing literature on decoloniality such as

A key issue is to define and clearly frame how do you perceive colonisation in the context of health in East Africa. The literature features various framing spanning from colonial-rooted practices, settler colonialism and structural violence. You may find the work of Wispelwey et al 2023 "Because its power remains naturalized: introducing the settler colonial determinants of health" and Narasimhan et al 2021 "Because its power remains naturalized: introducing the settler colonial determinants of health" interesting to draw upon.

The article would benefit from using a theoretical or conceptual framework to structure your thesis. A few examples of relevant conceptual frameworks include the decolonial framework by Chandanabhumma & Narasimhan (2020), the indigenous-centred framework of Smith's (2012), and Quayle and Sonn (2019). You may also draw on the work of Seye Abimbola in decolonisation of global health and epistemic justice.

The paper engages critically with the British colonial history and establishment of the NHS, and it would benefit from focusing more on the colonial roots of establishing health systems in East Africa, particularly in Tanzania and how these colonial relationships shaped the health system in its wider sense. Similarly, the focus of the "politics" section would benefit from analysing the politics in East Africa as well and how these politics shape health, access to health, medical education, health service delivery models, etc. These political changes particularly during the independence of states like Tanzania are important to analyse.

The paper offers a good overview covering of the status of health workforce and medical education. The paper would benefit from in-depth analysis in these two dimensions as the main focus of the paper. This should be also manifested in

the paper title, abstract, and narrative across the paper.

I appreciated the fact you added few photos and It would be very interesting if you can add a reflexivity statement illustrating your experience as healthcare workers in UK/East Africa, and your positionality. Sharing more of your lived experiences as healthcare workers in East Africa navigating a health system with colonial roots would enrich this paper and centre it around your experience.

As an African based in an academic institution with colonial roots, I appreciated your reflection and engagement with a tricky and sensitive topic that would bring a lot of discomfort. Thank you for writing this paper and I hope my comments are helpful for your way forward.

Best,

Sali