

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Report on Manuscript ID: Decolonisation of Health in East Africa: Opinion Piece

I have read the above manuscript and have made comments on some of the key issues that require the attention of the author(s).

A. Structure of manuscript

The author(s) structured the manuscript as below.

Abstract

Workforce

Politics

Changing Clinical Priorities and Practice

Academic Challenges

Parallel Strategies

Future Priorities

B: Comments on the paper

This opinion piece touches on an important issue, it is very interesting, and the quality of the presentation seems good. However, I have presented the comments and suggestions below according to the areas that require some clarity or revision.

Objective(s) of the study

The author(s) indicated the objective in the abstract that 'This opinion piece describes and discusses the past and present influence of the UK in African healthcare and offers some examples of practices that might facilitate improved clinical and academic outcomes for all marginalised people in the near future' (page 1). However, the reader is not informed of the methods and analytical strategies applied to arrive at the viewpoints/conclusions in the piece.

Introduction

The author(s) did not provide any section on introduction to present a brief analysis of the problem related to the subject matter. The author(s) should ensure a structured format for the presentation. A section as titled above could be devoted to an analysis of the problem, limitations, and justification based on extant literature forming the basis of the current opinion. The statement of the objective could follow afterwards which will have to show the reader the themes/areas that the analysis covered in this important discussion. Even in a systematic review, there is a need to formulate specific key questions. That is, the author(s) should endeavour to explain to the reader how these themes forming the opinion were related to the objective of the study: 'Workforce, Politics, Changing Clinical Priorities and Practice, Academic Challenges, Parallel Strategies, and Future Priorities' (pages 2-9).

Theoretically, the reader would expect to see how the key elements of a chosen theory were used to explain / related to the key themes discussed. For instance, the author could suggest a theory that could explain the process of decolonising healthcare which could be applied to a similar scenario in East Africa.

The author(s) should also provide an explanation to the reader about the methods used for data collection (e.g. ethnography, action research, implementation research etc.) and analysis which brought out the themes used for this opinion.

The author(s) should also seek to provide an explanation or narrative on how the quality of the data was assured. The author(s) presented photos of practitioners/students in the write up (pages 3,5,7, and 9). However, the author(s) did not explain how the consent of these participants was secured before the publication in the piece. The author(s) should explain how anonymity and confidentiality, voluntary participation/withdrawal, among other ethical considerations were adhered to in obtaining their consent.

Opinion

As noted earlier, it appears that the author(s) provided the opinion using these themes; 'Workforce, Politics, Changing Clinical Priorities and Practice, Academic Challenges, Parallel Strategies, and Future Priorities' (pages 2-9). However, it was not clear how these related to or emanated from the objective indicated in the abstract as '...past and present influence of the UK in African healthcare and offers some examples of practices that might facilitate improved clinical and academic outcomes for all marginalised people in the near future' (page 1). Based on the objective, the reader would expect to see themes related to the following;

1. Past and present influence of the UK on African healthcare
2. Practices facilitating improved clinical outcomes
3. Practices facilitating improved academic outcomes
4. Improved health status for all marginalised people in the future

Nonetheless, going by the analysis presented, perhaps, the author(s) could revise the themes to convince the reader that they were actually related to UK's influence on African healthcare;

1. UK's politics and healthcare politics in Africa
2. Healthcare human resources/workforce and immigration
3. Academic curricula development, training, and research challenges
4. Clinical priorities and practice – managing diseases
5. Management (parallel) strategies for healthcare delivery
6. Future priorities of African healthcare system

Thus, the reader would expect to see how the above analysis would make suggestions regarding decolonisation of African healthcare.

Conclusion

The author(s) could provide a section titled as 'Conclusion' and recap the objective and the methods applied to collect data before summarising the main conclusions related to the objective(s) as well. The policy implications, limitations to the study, and future research could be presented here as well.

Citations / Referencing

The author(s) should ensure that the references with incomplete volume number(s), issue number(s) and page number(s) and DOI are rectified in accordance with the journal's recommended referencing style. The referencing style is mixed.