Reviewer's report

Title: Absenteeism amongst health workers - developing a typology to support empiric work in low-income countries and characterizing reported causes.

Version: 2 Date: 12 April 2013

Reviewer: Mohsin Sidat

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

I would like to thank you all for taking time and making effort to appropriately address our suggestions and comments.

Secondly, I found only one minor issue that seems unclear (perhaps copy and paste and/or deletion might have contributed for this!). It is regarding the following segment of the results:

Definitions of absenteeism were reported in most of the articles reviewed. Some definitions were narrow and characterized absence by specific health conditions, such as (knee and back pain [16-18], stress [19], etc). Other definitions were broad and studied absence in general typically including absence due to illness and other causes [20-22].

Please, review the segment above particularly the following part "... such as (knee ...)...". I think the examples should follow after the use of the word "such" and should not be under-brackets! Additionally, the clarity of the segment will increase if the authors accept in using a bit more of punctuation and shortening the phrases.

Finally, would like to congratulate for the hard work and excellent paper presented.

Kind regards

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'