

LETTER TO EDITOR

Applicability of the World Health Organization's Healthcare Systems Framework in Libya (Authors' Reply)

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Published: 31 July 2016

Ibnosina J Med BS 2016;8(4):132-133

Received: 30 July 2016

Accepted: 30 July 2016

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To The Editor,

We would like, on behalf of all our co-authors, to thank Dr. Bel'eed-Akkari's for his interest in our study and his comments in his recent letter to the editor (1). In response, we would like to make a few comments and clarifications.

The aim of the survey was to explore the views of healthcare workers in Libya on the WHO Health System Framework (WHO-HSF) 6 pillars model (2-4). The attendants were encouraged to express their views about the Libyan healthcare system and the problems it faces. This was performed before starting the discussion on each of the WHO-HSF 6 pillars model. It was also an attempt to use the WHO-HSF model as a diagnostics tool to evaluate the current Libyan healthcare system. Another goal for this survey was to prepare the attendants to comment on different subjects; for example the importance of clinical governance for Libya,

arrangements for achieving diversity in sufficient numbers, the requirement for developing a health workforce and to know about the different models of health systems.

We did not validate our survey as is evident from the title; applicability rather than the validity of the healthcare system. We have not performed proper validation assessment such as checking the internal consistency, reliability nor validity testing.

The stems of the questionnaire were meant to be answered according to the Lickert scale (5), which is a technique to measure the attendants' attitudes and includes both the levels of agreeing or disagreeing with the questionnaire statements and if any comments are to be added by attendants.

A significant weakness of this study was that only 110 respondents (22%) completed the questionnaires out of

500 participants. We agree with Dr. Bel'eed-Akkari's comments regarding the difficulties in conducting medical research in a non-native language. We have overcome these difficulties by having the delegates who do not have a good command of the language not completing the questionnaire themselves and we have omitted the questionnaires which were not clearly answered.

By this exercise, we have achieved an increase in awareness of healthcare systems and the concepts of action in healthcare providers. We look forwards to following this with a roadmap of actions and practical solutions towards a workable plan to strengthen healthcare services; a difficult but achievable task (6).

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