Gopi et al Empathy:

**Review comments:**

1. The paper addresses a topic that is not taught explicitly in the medical curriculum in India but is necessary to shape the life and practice of a good doctor. It is relevant to the field of ethics.
2. It is written from the perspective of an Indian intern and might reflect situations in other LMIC nations. It can inform future training programs. It is appropriate for the journal.
3. Even though the topic of empathy is discussed often, the author comes to the topic from a personal angle, which is original. I have not checked for plagiarism in any software. However I do not suspect any plagiarism.
4. The conclusions were appropriately drawn from the arguments in the article. There were generalizations in the article, which I suppose are due to the unique position the author is in. I would consider these as natural but would expect some depth and clarity to be added by the senior co-authors.
5. The article discusses the 4 kinds of empathy but in the final application it focuses on teaching behavioral expression of empathy and communication skills. This reduced empathy training to being quite like training of customer support staff. It is a good step forward in pragmatic terms however it seems quite superficial in comparison to how to be sensitive to suffering and emotions and yet stay in control so as to not lose your judgement in clinical and relational decisions. May be this cannot be taught in a class or through a module but is caught at the bedside by empathetic seniors.
6. I really liked the fact that a conflict that began at an emotional level was resolved with an intellectual search for answers and has resulted in this paper which brings out the problem seen in dealing with both acute severe illnesses and chronic debilitating illnesses.
7. It would benefit from a little more depth in applications, regarding the content of training that is proposed and the possible limitations of structured training in issues which deal with attitudes.