Reviewers report

Title: The effects of an intervention program for promoting interorganizational network building between multidisciplinary agencies and community-based organizations: a cluster trial in Japan

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Reviewer: Yutaka Motohashi

Reviewers report:

This paper deals with the effects of intervention program for promoting interorganizational networks in the community. It aims at practical application of intervention programs in the community field.

The methods are appropriate and the data obtained were properly analyzed. The limitations of the works are clearly stated.

However, there are several points to be more clearly described in methods and discussion.

Minor Essential Revision

Abstract
(1) An abbreviation of CBOs appears without an annotation previously.

Background
(2) Please explain more in detail what is an interorganizational network and how it works in community settings in order to better understand the situation in Japanese community for readers.

Methods
(3) Interorganizational network building is a key concept of this study. However, this concept and an objective way of its measurement seems not to be clearly shown. Does the understanding of interorganizational network building of attendees of the study was the same?

Results
(4) Please show the number of subjects in each group in Table 2-4.

Discussion
(5) In the opening of Discussion, authors describe positive effects for individual participants in terms of interorganizational network building between the multidisciplinary agencies and CBOs. However, the effects was found only in a significant effect in the recognition of knowledge and skills for building networks with CBOs. It is better that the sentence on this part is more discreetly described.

(6) In page 19 (4th line from bottom) authors described that this is the first report of a program for promoting interorganizational network building between
multidisciplinary agencies and CBOs. Probably readers would like to know how the effects of personal level can affects factors of behavioral and environmental levels. Please briefly mention about this in Discussion part.

Conclusion

(7) The conclusion is too long. Please revise more briefly.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests