Reviewer's report

Title: The experiences of women of reproductive age regarding health-promoting behaviours: A qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2012

Reviewer: Constance Dimity Pond

Reviewer's report:

1. This is an interesting paper which reflects on Iranian women's views about behaviour that promotes health. It is particularly interesting in that it picks up cultural attitudes which are not generally found in the mainstream literature.

2. The aim of the study is well justified and clearly stated and the rationale for a qualitative approach is established. The conceptual framework for the analysis is the conventional one proposed by Hsieh and Shannon and the data analysis is well described, with appropriate data management, peer researcher checking codes and review by participants.

3. Minor essential revisions:
   i. The sampling strategy is described as opportunistic but I would like more information about this. For example, did the interviewer/researcher have a pre-existing relationship with the participants (suggested to me by the preponderance of university-educated participants), which may have affected the credibility of the data.
   ii. 13/15 participants have a diploma or university education, and this must be higher than the population as a whole. This should be mentioned in the section on limitations to generalisability.
   iii. there are a number of places where it is clear that the author is not a native English speaker. These should be reviewed. In particular I would point out the following:

   Under Stress Management: "I believe that I should accept the unwilling happenings in my life, everything that makes me well built-up." To me the word "unwilling" is not clear, and the phrase "well built-up" is not clear.

   In the Discussion, in the paragraph starting "Arcury et al...." the following sentence is awkward and hard to understand: "for example, the nature and the feature of being with people theme mentioning preservation of social contacts or staying busy theme indicating performing joyful activities were different from the behaviours of establishing an appropriate pattern of social communications or doing health recreations in our study." The use of inverted commas around the names of the themes (eg "the nature and feature of being with people" theme) would help here.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.