Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 15 June 2012

Reviewer: Michelle McCarron

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
None.

Minor Essential Revisions:
2. p. 4, Background, para. 1, lines 1-2: “Health-promoting lifestyle emphasizes the goal of ‘health for all’ in the World Health Organization[1].” This sentence was a bit confusing as worded. Alternative wording could be: “A health-promoting lifestyle, as described by the World Health Organization[1], emphasizes the goal of ‘health for all’.”
3. p. 4, Background, para. 1, lines 2-3: “Health-promoting lifestyle” should read “A health-promoting lifestyle”.
4. p. 5, Background, line 1: The first sentence reads awkwardly. I suggest changing it to “Furthermore, each community has its own value system. Consequently, and in order to recognize the meaning of…”
5. p. 5, Background, line 5: “and improve performance of health service providing system” should read “and improve the performance of the health service providing system”.
6. p. 5, Background, para. 1, line 1: I would suggest changing “efficient” to “effective”.
7. p. 5, Background, para. 1, lines 2-3: “emphasizing on its” should read “emphasizing its”.
8. p. 6, Methods, line 3: “results of quantitative” should read “results of the quantitative”.
9. p. 6, Methods, line 4: “score” should read “scores”.
10. p. 6, Methods, line 5: “percentile and could” should read “percentiles and who could”.
11. p. 6, Methods, para. 1, line 2: “saturation was achieved, that is, no new
information or code was received,” should read “saturation was achieved—that is, no new information or codes were present in the data—”

12. p. 7, Data Analysis, lines 6-7: “The interviews which were recorded on tapes” should read “The interviews, which were recorded on tapes.”

13. p. 7, Data Analysis, lines 9-10: “The codes were detected on the basis of the meaning units resulted from the participants’ explanations” should read either “The codes were detected on the basis of the meaning units and resulted from …” or “The codes detected on the basis of the meaning units resulted from …”

14. p. 7, Data Analysis, line 11: “subcategory” should read “subcategories”.

15. p. 7, Trustworthiness, para. 1, line 3: The sentence “An integration of data collection methods including interview, and field notes were used” was confusing. An alternative might be “This study relied primarily on two types of data: transcripts generated from interviews and the interviewers’ field notes.”

16. p. 8, Establishing an Appropriate Pattern of Eating, para. 1, line 4: “and appropriate pattern of eating” should read “an appropriate pattern of eating”.

17. p. 8, Establishing an Appropriate Pattern of Eating, para. 2, line 1: “consumed food” should read “food consumed” and a period needs to be added to the end of the sentence.

18. p. 9, Establishing an Appropriate Pattern of Eating, para. 3, line 1: “which was mentioned to by the”. The word “to” should be deleted.

19. p. 12, Stress Management, para. 1, line 1: This paragraph begins with the statement, “Stress management is the main category, which reflects …” Some other sub-sections (e.g., Establishing an Appropriate Eating Pattern, p. 8; Establishing an Appropriate Pattern of Social Interactions, p. 13; Feeling Improvement in Physical and Functional Health, p. 16) begin with this same type of wording. The problem that I am having with it is that each time I read it, it sounds as though what you are describing is the main finding of your research in general, not a main category on the same level as the other eight. Changing the wording to something such as “Stress management is a main category which reflects …” (the same format could be used for the other sub-sections) would help to ease this confusion.


21. p. 14, Establishing an Appropriate Pattern of Social Interactions, para. 1, line 1: The comma should be deleted.

22. p. 13, Establishing an Appropriate Pattern of Social Interactions, para. 4, line 2: “way in” should be changed to “way of”.

23. p. 16, Feeling Improvement in Physical and Functional Health, para. 3, line 2: The comma after “status” should be changed to a semi-colon.
24. p. 18, Feeling Improvement in Emotional and Psychological Health, para. 2, line 2: The comma after “thinking” should be changed to a semi-colon.

25. p. 19, Discussion, para. 1, line 7: “A study conducted with” should be read “In a study conducted with”.

26. p. 20, Discussion, lines 1-4: This sentence is rather long and convoluted. Suggested alternate wording is “Additionally, stress management was not reported in the Arcury et al. study. In the present study, spirituality encompassed many aspects; however, Arcury et al. found that participants described only some aspects of spirituality, namely a belief in God and participating in church.”

27. p. 23, Acknowledgements: “as part of PhD” should read “as part of a PhD”.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. p. 31, Table 3: The “p” in “practicing safe and healthy recreation” should be capitalized for consistency.

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.