Author's response to reviews

Title: Program of active aging in a rural Mexican community: a qualitative approach

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Phillips:

I send you the corrected manuscript entitled “Program of active aging in a rural Mexican community: a qualitative approach” and reply point-by point to comments of the reviewers, for review and possible publication in BMC-Public Heath.

Sincerely

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Program of active aging in a rural Mexican community: a qualitative approach

Authors: Maria de la Luz Martínez-Maldonado, Elsa Correa-Muñoz and Víctor Manuel Mendoza-Núñez

REVIEWER: CYNTHIA TEEL

1. Comment:

“Abstract and pg 8: The term "measure" is used to describe how empowerment was assessed. This should be changed to "assess", because specific measures were not used in the study”.

1. Reply:

This term was corrected.

2. Comment:

“The use of the term "enforcement", related to self-care and mutual-help, persists in the manuscript (e.g., pg. 3, pg. 4). This seems inconsistent with the assumptions/key elements (pg. 2-3) of the Gerontological Care Model. The term should be changed to something like "supported".”

2. Reply:

This was corrected.

3. Comment:

“The assertion about a commonly held myth that knowledge acquisition is difficult after age 50 is puzzling and requires a source, and an explanation, i.e., is this a myth within a particular group of people? This "myth" would not be prevalent (or common) in many other locations”.

3. Reply:

This paragraph was corrected. The assertion was limited to this rural community of Mexico.
4. Comment:
“Data analysis, pg 9: Is this referring only to attendance data, or were other data analyzed, too?”

4. Reply:
The data analysis only was for percentages and chi square test; these were included in the results and discussion.

5. Comment:
“pg 10, paragraph 2: Drop-out causes for the 2nd workshop should be in a separate paragraph, and the discussion should address hypotheses about the differences between the 2 workshops.”

5. Reply:
The paragraph was separated and was included in the discussion.

6. Comment:
“Findings section: should add headings for each aspect of empowerment that was assessed (per pg 4 statement). Personal dimension is identified, but headings for the other aspects are missing.”

6. Reply:
The heading for other aspects was included.

7. Comment:
“In the Discussion (pg 17), the authors note that women had a "more emphatic attitude change...". This needs clarification, i.e., does this mean that compared to the male participants, women showed a greater increase in empathy (is this a spelling error), or where the women more passionate about expressing their changes? In any event, the data for this claim need to be presented in the findings, to establish a context for reference in the Discussion.”

7. Reply:
This paragraph was corrected.
8. Comment:
“The stated purpose for the study (pg 4) was to analyze factors contributing to empowerment of older adults. The conclusion (pg 18) need to clearly address this original purpose statement.”

8. Reply:
The conclusion was corrected

9. Comment:
“pg 4 (and Table 4): 3rd bullet, should be "mainly", not "meanly"; 4th bullet, meaning isn't clear”

9. Reply:
This was corrected

10. Comment:
“pg 7: clarify "they"; "In the second phase, they selected...."

10. Reply:
This was corrected

11. Comment:
“pg 7: omit "On the other hand" phrase and start sentence with "The gerontological.."

11. Reply:
This was corrected

12. Comment:
“pg 7: clarify "...each promoter had to conduct a t workshop...”
pg 12: omit "On the other hand" phrase and start sentence with "With regard to..."

12. Reply:
This was corrected
13. Comment:

"Table 1: suggested title revision "Workshop community gerontology topics"

13. Reply:

The title of table 1 was corrected.

14. Comment:

"Table 4: analysis cell of 4th indicator should clarify that the tendencies were identified in this sample - without implying generalizability to all older adults."

14. Reply:

This paragraph was corrected.

15. Comment:

"Overall, would suggest elimination of most instances of terminology like "it is important to note/emphasize", "it was found that", "it became evident", "in this regard/sense", "that is to say". These phrases are unnecessary and detract from the content of the sentence."

15. Reply:

This terminology was eliminated.