Reviewer's report

Title: Leisure and religious activity participation and mental health: gender analysis of older adults in a developing country.

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2007

Reviewer: Christopher Alan Lewis

Reviewer's report:

General

The aim of the present study was to examine if participation in leisure and religious activities are predictors of depression or satisfaction with life in older adults in Nepal. Using face to face interviews using structured instruments, a large sample of Nepalese older adults completed established self-report measures of depression and satisfaction with life. There was some evidence that leisure and religious activities were beneficial in predicting lower depression and higher satisfaction with life.

Overall, the manuscript is very well written and the analyses reported are appropriate. The subject matter is likely to be of interest to a great many readers.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The title should be revised to include the name of the country (Nepal)

P.2 – Line 15, Please replace “(SWL)” with “(SWLS)” [and throughout manuscript]. SWLS should be employed throughout the manuscript as it is the widely used acronym for this measure.

P.7 – Line 1-2, There should be some discussion of the alternate the hypotheses that leisure and religious activities predict depression and less satisfaction: is it plausible that levels of depression and life satisfaction predict engagement in leisure and religious activities?

P.7 – Line 10-12, I am unclear about the inclusion criteria for the sample “those people aged 60 years and above who lived with at least one married son”. Some comment should be provided.

P.9 Line 1-2, I am unclear what the rationale was for reducing the scoring
response of the SWLS from a seven-point Likert scale to a five-point scale. The advantage of employing the original seven-point scale over the revised five-point scale is that the former provides greater variability in scores which is preferable, as well as allowing for the means score of the sample to be compared with means scores in other published work using the SWLS scale.

P.10 – Line 2, The Cronbach reliability co-efficient should be stated with two decimal places. (This should also be the case for the Beta co-efficients on pages 12 and 13).

P.12 – Line 24, Delete additional parenthesis.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'