Reviewer's report

Title:Cultural activity participation and associations with self-perceived health, life-satisfaction and mental health. The Young HUNT Study, Norway.

Version:2 Date:14 March 2015

Reviewer:Soren Ventegodt

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

There are several serious problems with this study. Most of them come from the quality of the Hunt 3 questionnaire which I find under normal scientific standard, because of:
A. The lack of Likert scales with symmetry and equidistance (I would recommend a 5-point Likert scale like this:
1) Very good
2) Good
3) Neither good nor bad
4) Bad
5) Very Bad
Without a good rating scale data has a poor quality.
B. Lack of sufficient questions on self-image (identity)
C: lack of sufficient questions regarding life philosophy
D: Lack of sufficient questions regarding sexuality (sex life, sexual satisfaction, sexual problems, sexual orientation)
E: Lack of sufficient questions about personal history
E: Lack of sufficient questions about quality of life – happiness, life satisfaction etc
F: Lack of good questions on the person’s ability to love
Without these questions it is impossible to make a satisfactory analysis of the associations of the factors associated to health, and any causal relationship between any factor and health can never be concluded.

The study seem to suffer from insufficient knowledge of the results found by other scientists, i.e. Antonovsky who found the life philosophy of essential significance, and of the psychodynamic research tradition (Freud, Jung, Reich, Adler etc) – the psychosexual development is the most important single dimension to determine future health both physical and mental.
Froms and Bubers important work on love is also ignored.

The conclusion that cultural involvement should be what gives good health is not likely to be true; extrovert involvement is more likely to be a mere symptom of good health and thriving!

Therefore the conclusions are not documented in the article and not likely to be true.

**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