Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding low colorectal cancer screening uptake in South Asian faith communities in England - a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2015

Reviewer: Deborah Oakley

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Review of Understanding low colorectal cancer screening uptake in South Asian faith communities in England - a qualitative study

A. No major compulsory revisions

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
Yes, very well defined. It is somewhat astounding that research is required in order to illuminate the issues described here. It shows how distant the care community is from knowing other cultures that are right in their midst!

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Yes, the situation calls for qualitative methods, which are appropriately and fairly rigorously described.

3. Are the data sound?
Yes, the results coincide with findings in other national settings.

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation?
Yes, as far as can be ascertained. The types of informants demonstrate thoughtful diversity among the communities of interest.

5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes, and thankfully the data are not repetitive, suggesting appropriate saturation.

6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Very clear and nicely concise.

7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
As appropriate.

8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Their community-based affiliations are not entirely clear.

9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes. Nicely done.
10. Is the writing acceptable?
Definitely. Only a few very minor suggestions

B. Minor essential/discretionary revisions

Line 64: The word “deprivation” seems too broad. Surely they have a plentitude of joy, family relationships, etc. Perhaps low-income or economic stress would be more accurate?

Line 110: The phrase “by reference to” means by? Or without regard to?
Also, non-printed is a bit round about. It would be more helpful to suggest specific media, e.g., local language broadcasts, religious/community center talks, community-specific lay workers who hold parties, go door-to-door, etc. With communities similar to those studied, preventive/screening health fairs have been useful especially when multiple health problems are addressed. In other words, the health system has to be proactive, providing culturally competent outreach

Line 200: “less able to assist” should be “less likely to assist.”

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.