Reviewer’s report

Title: Long-term members' use of fitness centers: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jun 2018

Reviewer: John C Peters

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have satisfactorily addressed many of the comments raised in the initial review. However, there are still some areas that could be strengthened to raise the impact of this paper.

1. The lack of a theory driven approach should be listed as a limitation of the study in the results section.

2. While the authors say they sought to get variation across participants and they state that they achieved the “intended variation” (line 124), they did not specify what was the intended variation. Did all of the added members experience all of the example services listed (e.g., personal training, etc.)?

3. In response to a question about choice of participant number the authors responded that study size is determined differently in qualitative research and that information power and saturation are key elements used for determining study size. However, they did not say anything about how the chose their study population based on an estimate of information power and saturation.

4. In several places the authors refer to the statement of their results about factors correlated with fitness center membership retention as answers to questions about the implications of their findings. I think the questions from both reviewers were attempting to elicit the authors hypotheses/thoughts about how their findings might specifically inform practices/interventions in fitness centers and in the population to promote longer term maintenance of physically active lifestyles.

5. And, they state in several responses that quantitative research is needed to understand their findings. However, they do not suggest specifically what quantitative research should be done, in whom, etc. to see if their findings are generalizable to a larger, more randomly selected, population of fitness center users.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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