Reviewer’s report

Title: A qualitative study exploring why adults with intellectual disabilities and obesity want to lose weight and views of their carers.

Version: 0 Date: 18 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Isurujith Kongalaliyanage

Reviewer’s report:

TOPIC : Needs to be refined - its too long and complicated to understand immediately. Avoid using and twice and rephrase to make your target population more prominent.

INTRODUCTION : Well written.

1. The references however need not be this many for a single statement. The authors should find the most important one or two or a key review and include it. E.g. Line 23 references 2-16, i.e. 14 references for the same point!.

2. Line 34 : this is about the methods - this section should either come after a brief statement about the methods you have used or in the methods section. The above suggestion about the refernces also valid here.

METHODS : Needs re-structuring and major revisions

1. Suggest to start the methods with the study design and include the ethical considerations (with which the current methods starts with - from line 47-54) at the end of the study design under the topic "ethical considerations". Line 50, include the name of the other study.

2. Study design is not the questions used. It is the type of the study. Ref http://www.cebm.net/study-designs/

3. Sections, paragraphs or sentences should explain the study population, sample selection in detail.

4. As this is a qualitative study, you have to mention the qualitative method used for obtaining the themes, if you used any analytical software, how were the themes identified

Please refer: http://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-science-and-medicine/policies/guidelines-for-qualitative-papers/
RESULTS - needs major revisions.

Overall impression: The data presented is valid and probably of use for interventions and other dealings with people with disability who are obese.

However I feel that although this is a qualitative research your presentation style and data presented are of quantitative in nature. A bit more detailed exploration into the reasons given and identifying underlying themes for the first tier of themes identified etc. would make your argument stronger. E.g. answer to the question "why" did they picked a certain theme.

In research terms, all these statistical values are of minimal use due to the small size of your sample if we are looking at this in a quantitative aspect. If the authors want to highlight the statistical tests and significance as they have done I suggest you discuss more about the representativeness, randomness etc. of the sample selection and also about the dropouts. If not the results cannot be generalized. At least these should be well accounted or in the discussion section.

DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION - well written but major revisions needed.

Needs to be more structured. The opening sentence can be separated into two. (or in two paragraphs) One about the study on obesity and the other about the nature of the study proving that it is feasible to carry out such studies among the disabled.

Line 29-36 is best suited in the methods section!

The discussion is more like a well written literature review. I think it should be re-organized and reduced in content to match the objectives of this study and study population. Discuss with regards to your findings and within the scope of this research.

Tables : Table 1: I suggest that you change the X and Y axis. Please obtain the support of an expert on this.

Figure 1 : Well presented.

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

No

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.

No

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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