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Open Peer-Review Report

Identification of Management and Technical Standards in Fitness Clubs: A Qualitative Inquiry

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Florence DiGennaro Reed [®] Professor in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science, University of Kansas, US fdreed@ku.edu	Reviewer 1: Ali Sargolzaie Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Zahedan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Zahedan, Iran. Email: a.sargolzaie@iauzah.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Alireza Rajabipoor Meybodi Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Yazd University, Yazd, Iran Email: Rajabipoor@yazd.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The methodology section, while detailed, could benefit from a clearer explanation of the thematic analysis process. Specifically, how themes were derived from the data could be more transparent. This would enhance the reproducibility of the study.

Further clarification on the selection criteria for participants would help understand the research context better. Describing how these participants are representative of the broader fitness club industry could strengthen the study's validity.

The study acknowledges its limitations, including the geographical scope and sample size. However, a more detailed discussion on how these limitations might impact the findings and how they could be addressed in future research would be beneficial.

The manuscript would benefit from a more nuanced analysis of different stakeholders' perspectives, especially the customers' viewpoint. Understanding the impact of standardization on customer satisfaction and retention could add significant value to the study.



The manuscript would benefit from thorough proofreading to correct typographical errors and improve readability. Additionally, some sections could be reorganized for better flow and coherence.

Authors revised the manuscripts.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review provides a good foundation but lacks depth in certain areas, particularly in discussing previous studies' findings regarding the challenges and benefits of standardization in the fitness industry. A more comprehensive review could contextualize the study's findings within the existing body of knowledge.

While the study identifies challenges in standardization, it stops short of deeply analyzing these challenges or proposing specific, actionable solutions. Expanding this discussion could offer valuable insights to practitioners in the field.

While the qualitative approach provides rich insights, incorporating quantitative data could strengthen the study's findings. Future research could include surveys or performance metrics to complement the qualitative findings.

The conclusion briefly mentions recommendations for fitness clubs but could be expanded to offer more detailed, actionable strategies for implementing and benefiting from management and technical standards.

Authors revised the manuscripts.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.

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