Reviewer's report

Title: Breastfeeding attitudes of Finnish mothers and fathers during pregnancy

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2010

Reviewer: Maryelena Vargas

Reviewer's report:

The following points were considered when assessing this work:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

Do the authors mean childbearing families at any stage; or pregnant?

1. What kind of attitudes do childbearing (pregnant) families have towards breastfeeding?

2. How do the attitudes of pregnant families differ when the demographic characteristics are considered?

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

Please Identify study design under Methods

3. Are the data sound?

The authors claim data is sound; however, it may help to contact an expert to Assess reliability of this newly developed scale. For Some fo the factors, reliability is below 0.70.

It is usually best if it is at 0.70 or higher before an instrument can be used. Please See below.

Factor 2 Regarding breastfeeding as exhausting for the mother 0.602

Factor 3 Family-centred view on breastfeeding 0.643

Factor 4 Equality in feeding 0.655

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
No

Methods
The electronic Breastfeeding Knowledge, Attitude and Confidence scale (BKACs) was developed and 172 people (123 mothers, 49 fathers) completed the study. The data were analysed with factor analysis and nonparametric methods.

The title is “breastfeeding attitudes of Finnish mothers and fathers during pregnancy”; however, the purpose of the study was to describe….. Attitudes and discover how demographic characteristics related to them. Development of the scale and Demographic characteristics related to attitudes need to be part of the title of the study. A suggestion is: “Development of a… Scale to describe Finnish Parents breastfeeding attitudes and its relationship to selected demographic characteristics during pregnancy”

9. Is the writing acceptable?

Overall, there were several instances I had minor concerns regarding clarity of sentence style and structure, choice of words and punctuation, such as comma usage and semicolon usage; e.g. use semicolon before; however, and comma after, and grammar usage.

For example, the following sentence on page 12,
“Studies conducted in other cultures have indicated that breastfeeding in front of others is not might be seen as embarrassing [57, 58]” not sure what “is not might be seen” means in this sentence

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Clarify Title, research questions and review the document for sentence structure and grammar usage

Based on your assessment of the validity of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step?

- Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Once Major Compulsory Revisions are addressed, accept after minor essential
revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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