Reviewer's report

Title: Family-based factors associated with overweight and obesity among Pakistani primary school children

Version: 1 Date: 5 October 2011

Reviewer: George Moschonis

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The quality of English is of concern. There are several errors in English to list individually, and the whole paper needs to be checked through carefully taking this under consideration.

2. Methods section: Page 6: The authors should clarify in their “Methods” section whether participation of children in the study was voluntary. In this context the authors should also provide information on whether parents were informed prior to their child’s participation in the study and whether they were asked to sign a consent form?

Methods section: Page 6: Another important covariate that could be used in the regression analyses is degree of children’s sexual maturation (i.e. assessed by Tanner Stage) especially for preadolescents, aged 9-12 years old. Have the authors assessed this variable. If no, this should be included as a limitation in the revised manuscript.

3. Materials and Method section: Page 6: Further to the previous comment the authors should also clarify whether non-participation of children in the study could probably have affected the results. A relevant comment or a limitation about this should be incorporated in the Discussion section of the revised manuscript.

4. Discussion section; Page 13, Paragraph 2: The authors should also provide a comment on the applicability of the proposed prevention and treatment initiatives (i.e. family and school-based interventions) in the case of Pakistan. Are there public health networks available to support such initiatives? Is there previous experience of relevant intervention programs implemented in the country? If yes what were the outcomes if these initiatives?

5. Discussion section: The Discussion section lacks a clear “Conclusions” paragraph. The authors should revise the text accordingly.

6. Table 3: Are the very high odds ratios and 95% CIs reported for parental education in Table 3, a result of the very few (i.e. only 10) illiterate people included in the analysis. The authors should comment on that.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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