Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of psychosocial risk factors on the trajectory of mental health problems from childhood to adolescence

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Reviewer: Michiko Nakazato

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This is an interesting paper which investigate the psychosocial factors on the trajectory variables of child/adolescent mental health problems (CAMHP) longitudinally.

The idea of examining the influence of risks and protective factors associated with CAMHS is potentially important as few data was gathered from developing countries.

However, there are several major points to be revised in the present study.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Background;
1. I would suggest that the authors should show the hypothesis of the current study regarding the relationship between CAMHP and various variables.

2. Some previous reports showed that experiencing CAMHP showed 1.33 times higher odds of reporting excessive alcohol misuse in adolescence than those who reported only a single type of maltreatment and those who did not report any childhood maltreatment (Shin et al, 2009). In the background, the authors should describe from the previous investigations, specific variables, risk factors which would predict CAMHP.

3. In the background, please show the characteristics of the region in the metropolitan area of Sao Paulo City, and common psychosocial problems in child and adolescence.

4. The information regarding what kind of CAMHP in developing countries should be focused on in the current paper, compared to those in developed countries. For example, how about the differences in the rates of child and adolescence suffering from mental problems between developing countries and developed countries?

Method;
5. Demographic data;

The background characteristics of the participants in the research should be described, e.g., the ethnicity, the characteristics of community, school enrollment ratio, information about familial backgrounds.
Were there any participants who attend mental health services and what about the rates?

6. The primary outcome measure of the study is CBCL total problem scale, assessed at T2 once. When the participants suffer from childhood maltreatment (CM) including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect from their caregivers, parent report questionnaires could not avoid data bias, therefore in an objective manner, primary outcome measure should be reconsidered. Otherwise, in the methodology the authors should describe the reasons why they choose the CBCL.

7. Discussions;
I would suggest the authors would describe in detail the suggesting model which include two risk factors, in the previous reports from the viewpoints of a comparison between developing countries and developed countries, and associations from other variables.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Title;
I would suggest the title may include the term "follow-up study" or "longitudinal".

2. Background; The term of "low-income urban community" is ambiguous. Please clarify the definition and show the references.

3. Method;
The method of sampling should be described in detail.

4. Results; Please show the tables of demographic data, the findings of multiple linear regression.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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