Reviewer's report

Title: Mental health of indigenous school children in northern Chile

Version: 2 Date: 6 August 2013

Reviewer: Andria Spyridou

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The hypothesis on the relation between the degree of cultural involvement and anxiety and depression is missing.

2. In the methods section when describing the instruments used, essential information is missing in most of the instruments. The following information should be included for all the instruments:
   - Number of items, and in case of subscales, the number of items for each one.
   - Scale rating (eg. Lickert scale of x-points,) and what does each point represent (eg. 0= not at all, 4= very much).
   - Scale’s range (eg. 0-20)
   - Cronbach’s alpha for all the scales for this study’s sample should be presented.

3. Are there any differences in the scores between males and females? In case there are none you could consider presenting it in the participants section. In case there are differences, it is interesting to present them in the results section.

4. Citation should be modified
   - in the Discussion page 11, for the paragraph beginning: “Research during the past two decades has shown how social support… ” is the reference no. 62 referring to the whole paragraph? If so the reference should be moved at the end of the previous sentence, after “lower probability of psychological disorders…."

Minor Essential Revisions

5. In the Discussion page 11 the third paragraph “Conversely…..” could benefit from some rephrasing and linguistic reworking (eg. “involved in their traditions, through participation in dances, or, participating in dances…”)

6. If the study has collected information concerning the place of birth of the children, (if they were born for example near Arica or migrated later on from the Andes highlands to the city) this could be interesting to include in the participants description. In case such information exists an exploratory analysis could be done to examine the impact of the place of birth and the time of migration to anxiety and depression.

7. Explanatory notes are missing from the tables. (eg. Note: Mean (X), Standard
Deviation (SD), etc. )

Discretionary Revisions

One of the strengths of this study is that it focuses in an understudied indigenous child sample. The cultural differences between Aymara children and not-indigenous children imply also differences in the socio-economic level of the families. These differences could also be explored (family income, number of children, working status of parents, living with one or both parents) these variables could be considered for having possible implications in the anxiety and depression symptoms of children. If such information has been collected an exploratory analysis could reveal further interesting results.

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

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

**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