Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol and marijuana - an unexpected predicament in Pakistani commercial drivers: A Cross-sectional Survey

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Reviewer: Evelyn Vingilis

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the paper entitled: Alcohol and marijuana – an unexpected predicament in Pakistani commercial drivers: A cross-sectional survey. The study examines the prevalence of self-reported alcohol and marijuana use, using time location cluster sampling.

This is a well-developed study with a well-defined question although it is confusing why the question of the study is to examine alcohol and marijuana, yet stimulants are also examined. It would be helpful to include this in the presentation of information, at least in the results and discussion sections. The sampling methods and sample size seems appropriate.

However, I have a few queries regarding the paper.

1) Questionnaire design: What are the psychometric properties of the questionnaire? Was questionnaire design methodology followed? It would be helpful to have much more information of how the questionnaire was developed and how validity and reliability was determined. Regarding demographics, I presume ethnicity was also queried? It is not listed in the Design section. Were any questions asked about stimulant drug use? This is commonly used among commercial truck drivers as a way to stay awake. Table 1 indicates that it was asked but again it is not mentioned in the questionnaire design section. Were any questions included on where they obtained their alcohol and marijuana? It would be helpful to have more information on the questions included in the questionnaire.

2) Results: I am wondering why the authors do not mention the use of stimulants in the results and discussion sections. This is an important finding too. More seem to use stimulants than alcohol. The authors should flush this out more. Table 3 seems to have non-related reasons classified together. Why was this done? For example, addiction and dependence seem quite different than “to get peace and calm”. Additionally, the text seems to misrepresent Table 3. The text says: “up to fifty percent, responded that it was used to gain mental peace and calm and to relieve fatigue on long journeys”, yet the table has a number of different factors included under the first 2 boxes. Please clarify. The different categories also would indicate different interventions. Presenting more categories would be useful. Again a listing of the questions would be helpful.

In summary, the paper is generally well written but more information of
questionnaire design questionnaire content and some discussion of stimulants in the results and discussion section seem warranted.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.