Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived risks and benefits of cigarette smoking among Nepalese adolescents: A population-based cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 12 November 2012

Reviewer: Bill King

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well conducted study of the cognitive and social-influence determinants of susceptibility to smoke amongst Nepalese adolescents. I believe this study will be of interest to tobacco control researchers and advocates throughout the developing world.

The study should not be treated as representative of all Nepalese adolescents and it should be noted that the number of respondents included in the analysis is modest. However I do not believe the number of respondents is so small as to invalidate the study.

I suggest a number of minor editorial changes:

- p2. First and second sentences in Background should read: "The perceived risks and benefits of smoking play an important role in determining susceptibility to smoking uptake among adolescents. Our study examined the perceived risks and benefits of smoking among adolescents who were found to be susceptible or not susceptible to smoking uptake."

- p2. Methods should make clear that 352 Ss appeared in the analysis not 500.

- p3 Conclusion should read: "To reduce susceptibility to smoking uptake...."

- p4 Sentence 1 should read: "Smoking and the use of other tobacco products..."

- p4 Sentence 3 should read: "... smoking initiation age ranges between... with most occurring between...."

- p4 Sentence 4 can be deleted.

- p4 Incorrectly, not inaccurately.

- p4 Sentence 8 should read: "Many adolescent smokers understand the risks of smoking in general terms but greatly underestimate the risks to them personally. This is in large part because they believe they will quit before becoming addicted."

- p7 Suggest “perception of risks and benefits of smoking.”

- p11 The subjects should be described in the Methods section. Should write” Among 500 potential participants...."
contention that adolescents employ wishful thinking [or an optimism bias] in the process of deciding to take up smoking.

P18 Suggest “Finally, our results strongly suggest that a successful intervention programme to reduce the susceptibility of adolescents to smoking uptake would pay attention not only to increasing the understanding of long-term physical risks but would draw adolescents’ attention to the shorter-term physical risks and would actively question their belief that becoming a smoker would make them more socially attractive.”

**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.