Reviewer’s report

Title: A cross-country comparison of tobacco consumption among South-Asian youths

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2013

Reviewer: George Rachiotis

Reviewer’s report:

General comments

I read with interest the paper entitled: A cross-country comparison of tobacco consumption among South-Asian youths. This is an interesting and well written paper on youth smoking in three South-Asian countries. Moreover, it is of interest that the present manuscript provides the reader with cross-country comparative information on smoking prevalence and its determinants from three South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka). The paper deserves publication in BMC Public Health; however, the authors could benefit from a major revision which could further strengthen the manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions

1. The title does not reflect properly the cross-country comparison of the smoking habit. Suggested title: A cross-country comparison of tobacco consumption among South-Asian youths from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

2. Abstract: The abstract lacks information on response rates for every participating country. In addition, the abstract should contain the Odds Ratios and 95% Confidence Intervals especially for the variables which found to be common significant predictors of the smoking habit in the three countries (e.g. parental, and friend’s tobacco use).

3. Introduction: The last sentence (page 3; lines 20-21) should be omitted.

4. Methods: page 4; line 12: Please remove:” The variables used in analysis” and use the word: Questionnaire, instead.

5. Results. Page 6; lines 9-13: I am not clear about the total response rate in each
country. Please clarify.

6. Discussion.

Further information about the prevalence of adolescent’s smoking in other countries of the area could be very useful for the reader.

An interest observation of the paper is that smoking in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Nepal is more prevalent among adolescent boys than in girls. This is in line with published data from other countries (Malawi, Greece) but in contrast with results from other countries (e.g. New Zealand, Australia, and Norway). This finding should be further discussed in relation to other countries and in particular to results –if available- from other South Asian countries. It would be of value if authors could further speculate

(in part the did so in the start of the discussion, but further work is needed)about the sex differences in smoking habit among South-Asian adolescents.

Last, the limitation of the data should be placed after the discussion and before conclusions and policy implications.

What next: Unable to decide until the authors respond to major compulsory revisions.

Level of interest: An article whose finding are important to those with closely related research interests.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I don’t feel qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.