Reviewer's report

Title: Weight misperception amongst youth of a developing country: Pakistan - A Cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 13 June 2013

Reviewer: Stefanie Helmer

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript reports misperceptions among Pakistani adolescents based on a secondary analysis of data of a cross-sectional study. The study has been improved concerning ‘Results’ and ‘Discussion’. The authors give more information about the characteristics of the sample. A few more changes are needed. The language should be improved in some parts. I hope that the authors will find these suggestions useful.

Abstract:

1) P.2, Results: ‘Greatest misperception of was observed’. It appears that there is a word missing to complete the sentence. Please add the necessary information.

2) P.2, Results: ‘Females overestimated 8 times more than males.’ In the previous sentence you are referring to underweight female. In the mentioned sentence you are reporting results about the overall sample. Please specify the referring sub-group of the sample in each sentence.

Background:

3) P.4, 1st paragraph, last three sentences: Please provide a citation for the theory of weight misperception.

Methods:

4) P. 7/8, Data collection tool: Please explain what you mean with ‘Basic variables’.

5) P.9, Statistical analysis: Please provide more information about binary logistic regression. Did you perform more than one regression? If yes, why? Why didn’t you mention the independent variable sex in table 3?

Results:

6) P. 11, Figure 1: The description of figure 1 in the text is very good. I would like to read this detailed explanation in the heading of the figure (attachment). In the attachment it is not totally clear that the distribution of misperceptions between BMI groups is shown.
Discussion:
1) P.17, Limitations: The BMI has further limitations. Because it is not a measure of body fatness, very muscular individuals often fall into the overweight category when they are not overly fat. Therefore, it could be possible that the BMI is not appropriate for i.e. muscular males who 'misperceived' themselves as normal weight. I would like to read about this issue in the limitations chapter.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Abstract:
1) P.2, Methods: Please add 'statistically' to the last sentence.
2) P.2, Results: ‘Underweight females overestimated their weight (...) males underestimated their weights’. Please replace weights by weight.

Background:
3) P.4, 1st paragraph: Please add ‘of’ to the last sentence of the first paragraph.
4) P.5, 1st paragraph: Please replace ‘Proper’ by ‘proper’.

Methods:
5) P.9, 2nd paragraph: Please add ‘statistically’ to the last sentence.

Results:
6) P. 11, Figure 2 & 3: Figure 2 and 3 contain information that must not necessarily be shown in a graph or a figure. In this regard, a table that contains the merged information of Fig. 2&3 would be more appropriate.
7) Table 3: Page 26: The title of the table should contain more information about the content of the analysis. Please add information of the legend to the title (For example: Associations between misperception and age, type of university and faculty (results from binary logistic regression)

Discretionary Revisions:
Background:
1) P. 5, 2nd paragraph: In matters of uniformity: Please replace 12853 by 12,853 and 2352 by 2,352 and so on.

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