Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors and Socioeconomic Variables in a Nation Undergoing Epidemiologic Transition

Version: 1 Date: 14 May 2013

Reviewer: T.Y. Wong

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors:

Thank you for allowing me to review your paper. This is a paper looking at the association between socioeconomic factors and cardiovascular risk factors in Malaysia and serves as an important study in planning health promotion activities.

I have the following comments:

Major Compulsory Revisions

(1) I am not certain if there was supposed to be a section to discuss your findings. This is important to discuss some of your findings and provide possible reasons why your findings are similar / different from other published studies.

(2) In your "conclusions" section, I am unsure about some of the statements made:

- Risk factor of diabetes can be reduced by improving socioeconomic status (SES). In this instance, I can think of other confounding factors leading to a rise in proportion of diabetic patients. For example, obesity is related to diabetes and is increasing in the developed world. Reducing diabetes is not simply just improving SES as you mentioned.

- Malay men and women showed highest prevalence of hypercholesterolaemia, demonstrating a need to 'review the diet of Malays". Again, I feel that you need to show that the diet of Malays is different from the other races or the difference could be due to other lifestyle factors (eg exercise).

- The higher prevalence of diabetes in EPM just means what you have observed. You should substantiate what you mean by residents must ‘reduce their consumption of sugar’ as you have not shown a difference in sugar consumption compared to the rest of the country.

- Could you explain what you mean by "panel" data?

- You will be aware that this is a cross-sectional prevalence study and it is difficult to assess causality from such data

(3) Appendix 2A
The numbers in the "technical" section tended to be smaller compared to the other categories. Did you consider if this group could be analysed together with the University or secondary group?

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to review your paper.

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

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests