Reviewer's report

Title: Khat chewing among Ethiopian university students - a growing concern

Version: 2 Date: 28 February 2014

Reviewer: Maged El-Setouhy

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Methodology: How it could be possible to collect 3268 questionnaires in a one month period time (June 2012). Please provide the sample size formula and its reference as well. You provided very basic statistical analysis such as bivariate analysis, and also, you just mention logistic regression in one sentence; you need to provide more about model selection of the logistic regression...

Results: The reporting of odd ratios in the results section seems confusing. For example it is not enough to report like this "Male students Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR)= 3.3(95% Confidence Interval: 1.8, 6.0)". Provide a reference group and interpret odd ratios in a probability mode... for example you can interpret as follows: "The odds of being a khat chewer among the male students were 3.3 (95% CI: 1.8, 6.0) times higher than the reference group of female students." A lot of the results in the tables have not been reported, therefore, why collected these variables if not using in the reporting of the results...

Minor Essential Revisions

Background: There are so many studies on prevalence of khat, factors associated with khat among Ethiopian University students... Specially, there is a recent study available online on that is much similar with this study... "Khat chewing and its associated factor among College students in Bahir Dar town, Ethiopia" by Yeshalem Mulugeta (October 30, 201).

Problem statement of the study is poorly presented: "those studies used small sample size and estimates were not accurate. In addition, the reasons and associated factors were not well documented. Therefore, this study was designed to assess the prevalence and reasons for khat chewing among University students using a large sample size than was used by previous studies". What the researcher is doing what he criticized with the earlier researchers he mentioned i.e. no accurate estimates...

Conclusion: "Prevalence of current use of khat reported in this study is higher than recent study done on university students in Ethiopia and heavily influenced with peer practice". If there was a recent prevalence study done on university students in Ethiopia, what is the reason behind doing again prevalence study... Based on the conclusion, originality of this study is very weak just repetitive of what other researchers have already done, in other words, the research studied what was already known (prevalence).... In general this study has no policy
implications or recommendations…

References:
needs to be rewritten in the standard way for writing references (see ref. 9) and to include the first and last page of the reference (see Ref. 5, 11, 14, 20 ...etc)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 interest that may affect my decision regarding this paper