Reviewer's report

Title: Tobacco smoking in Mongolia: findings of a national Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study

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Reviewer: Sovann SIN

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- Minor Essential Revisions

The title: Tobacco smoking in Mongolia: findings of a national Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study.

In this study, I think using the term “prevalence” of tobacco smoking is more appropriate than “practice”, which support the finding of domain 1. I think, the term practice or behavior would contain broader meaning than prevalence. It should involve intensity of cigarette smoke, age of smoking initiation, type of tobacco product (manufactured cigarette, handroll cigarette, smokeless tobacco product, etc).

In the introduction, the authors touched some status of implementation of key components of the tobacco control policy of Mongolia (smoke free public transports, picture health warning, advertising, promotion, and sponsorship), but it did not provide quantitative evident of status of the implementation of those policies.

The study design is sound, appropriate, and well explains.

In the limitation, the authors should elaborate the possibility of report bias on prevalence of smoking cigarette, since this study was based on self report, but no pilot test (eg. nicotine saliva or CO2 breath test), which could confirm the self report on the status of cigarette smoking. The authors should also explain the reasons of not include other variables like exposure to pro and anti tobacco messages, labeling, and packaging of tobacco product, price of tobacco product, the level of exposure to second hand smoke exposure, access to cigarette by minor, cigarette price in this study.

BMC Public Health is a journal policy. The findings of the tobacco related studies should provide basic evident to support the development of effective tobacco public health policy which include, which include tobacco use behavior, quit smoking, environmental factors such as exposure to pro and anti tobacco messages, labeling, and packaging of tobacco product, price of tobacco product, the level of exposure to second hand smoke exposure, access to cigarette by minor, cigarette price. Whereas, the findings of this study (Tobacco smoking in Mongolia: findings of a national Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study) could mainly explain the magnitude of the problem (prevalence) and identify the risk
group, but did not measure the environmental factors facilitating to cigarette smoke, which are essential to indicate for the developments of the legislation to control the risk factor of tobacco use. However, this study is still very useful, which used as the starting point to awake the tobacco control stakeholders and policy makers to take more measures to strengthen tobacco control in Mogolia.

Analysis, the design of this study is a complex study design, the MBC journal to consult with the statistician to get comment on the analysis.

The abstract, discussions and conclusions are fine which support to key findings of the study.

The writing is also fine, except there are few mistakes in term of punctuation (eg. space between words).

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.