Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes towards Smoking and Smoking Cessation, Smoking Cessation Services and Medication Utilization, and Barriers to Implementation of Tobacco Control Policies in Rural China: A Qualitative Study of Residents of Rural Villages in an Eastern Province of China

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Reviewer: Mi Hu

Reviewer's report:

Tobacco control in China, especially in rural areas, is a very important and challenging task. This is an interesting study focusing on the smoking and smoking cessation, and barriers to tobacco control in rural areas of China. Qualitative methods, semi-structured interviews and focus groups, were adopted for the study. Residences, village leaders and village doctors in nine villages selected from three counties in Shandong province were recruited. However, there are several concerns.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. The title that “Attitudes towards Smoking and Smoking Cessation, Smoking Cessation Services and Medication Utilization, and Barriers to Implementation of Tobacco Control Policies in Rural China: A Qualitative Study of Residents of Rural Villages in an Eastern Province of China” is too long and too complicated. I would suggest the title as “Smoking, Smoking Cessation and Tobacco Control in Rural China: A Qualitative study in Shandong Province”

2. In the ABSTRACT part, on page three and 13th line “Although doctor’s advice to quite is effective”. There is no evidence in this study support this point. In the first version of this article, there are even some citations from participants indicated that doctor’s advice did not work for smoking cessation. I would suggest reconsidering this point.

3. In the RESULT part, on page 14 and 5th to 15th line, the content in these paragraphs are not perfectly fit the context of this session namely “Limited Knowledge about Harm of Smoking”. I would suggest deleting it.

4. In the RESULT part, on page 14 and 16th line “Benefits of Smoking: Physical and Psychological”. According to the content in the following paragraphs, there are no physical benefits from smoking. I do not agree that dependence is a benefit of smoking.

5. The DISCUSSION part is mainly repeating the results. It would be meaningful and useful if author could deeply and evidence based analysis the main reasons of smoking, barriers of smoking cessation and tobacco control, and provide possible solutions. For example, on page 22th and 10th line, author described that “Unlike Western countries, preventive care such as annual checkup is not a standard practice in China. Many only seek care with a healthcare provider when
experiencing significant health problems that need immediate attention.” The expression as this sentence is too vague and not evidence based. Annual physical checkup is a standard practice for elderly and most of employees in China, and not a standard practice in some of Western Country. Also, increasing annual checkup may be not the priority solution for smoking cessation in China. The similar situations are not uncommon in the DISCUSSION part.

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