Reviewer's report

Title: Health inequities: lower socio-economic conditions and higher incidences of intestinal parasites

Version: 2 Date: 25 June 2007

Reviewer: mustafa ulukanligil

Reviewer's report:

General: Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Method
In page 4, the authors may give brief explanations for Turkish Standard Institute’s criteria about number and hygienic conditions of school toilets. Moreover the authors may prefer use of the criteria in association with presence of infection in socio economically different areas

Results
In page 6, the education level of father was analyzed but following paragraph it was repeated.

In page 7, in last paragraph, table 3 should be changed as table 2 because after the socio economic characteristics was analyzed; the association between these characteristics and prevalence of infection should be performed.

Discussion
In first paragraph the authors indicated “The nutrition, sanitary conditions of the families were insufficient and indoor space of the shanty houses for each household member was limited due to the high number of children” Is there any study confirming this information If not please remove it in Introduction.

In page 9 at end of the first paragraph, “Geohelminths were less frequently reported in western than eastern regions, possibly due to insufficient sewage system and the application of stool wastes as fertilizer ....” This possibility might be turn certainty with a reference paper (Ulukanligil M, Seyrek A, Aslan G, Ozbilge H, Atay S, 2001. Environmental pollution with soil transmitted helminths in Sanliurfa. Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz; 96: 903-911).

In page 10 in first paragraph, the authors indicated “The higher education level of the mother and increased percentage of a regular job of the mother lead to lower incidence of intestinal parasitic infection in the children (p <0.05). However, in table 2 showed 76 of 214 children (36.9%)( whom their mothers had regular job) were infected with parasites whereas 12/79(15.2%) children (whom mothers had not regular job) were infected. It meant less children (whom mothers had not regular jobs) were infected than others. So this result does not indicated that “This was not surprising, since the mother was the figure, responsible for the nutrition and education of the children in the traditional family structure. The
belief that the mothers who have insufficient education do not work and may spend more time with their children and so that they would protect the children against infections is not true” as authors proposed it.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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’