Author's response to reviews

Title: Investigating socio-economic-demographic determinants of tobacco use in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

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Version: 3 Date: 31 December 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
Investigating socio-economic-demographic determinants of tobacco use in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

(Revised Cover Letter)

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Why BMC Public Health should publish this Research article:
Tobacco control is an important area of public health worldwide, more so in the developing world where awareness levels regarding their potential for harm are very low. This original Research work conducted in a developing country setting needs a wider audience in other such nations where tobacco consumption and its sequale have wide range health implications. In my view BMC public health is just the right place to publish this manuscript, because of its speedy process, online availability and wide audience.

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Ethics Committee Clearance:
Ethical clearance for this study was obtained from ‘Ethics committee at Heartfile, Islamabad, Pakistan,’ in September 2004. Informed consent was obtained from the study participants.
POINT BY POINT RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS

Reviewer's report
Title: Investigating socio-economic-demographic determinants of tobacco use in Rawalpindi, Pakistan
Version: 2 Date: 14 September 2007
Reviewer: Ali Khan K Khuwaja

Reviewer's report:
General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. Key words are need to be revised. For example authors mentioned 'Educational status'. This is not an only determinant. Similarly authors mentioned as 'Rural Population' but the study was done rural as well as urban population.
   **KEY WORDS HAVE BEEN REVISED**
2. Authors have not sufficently discussed and compared the results regarding the prevalence of tobacco use with other studies. There are number of studies regarding tobacco use from Pakistan and other countries of the region.
   **PREVALENCE OF TOBACCO NEW REFERENCE ADDED**
3. In table 2, an additional colum is required to describe the overall (total: tobacco users and non-users) distribution of socio-economic and demographis determinants.
   **ADDITIONAL COLUMN WITH OVERALL TOTAL ADDED IN TABLE 2**
4. Title of the table 3 is not appropriate; it should be self-explainatory.
   **TITLE OF TABLE 3 HAS BEEN CHANGED; IT’S NOW SELF-EXPLANATORY**

Reviewer's report
Title: Investigating socio-economic-demographic determinants of tobacco use in Rawalpindi, Pakistan
Version: 2 Date: 20 September 2007
Reviewer: Phillippa Howden-Chapman

Reviewer's report:
General
The authors have addressed most of the issues raised, although the striking gender differences are still only described rather than analysed. If the smoking epidemic in women is not to follow the male pattern, a more in-depth analysis of this phenomenon would have been very useful and timely.
I am also still unclear which population groups use which kinds of tobacco products and whether there are class or ethnic preferences. Ideally the paper would be edited for style, but the content is very interesting and timely.

WE HOPE TO CARRY A MORE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF FEMALE TOBACCO CONSUMPTION CORRELATES IN A FUTURE STUDY

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I am not in a position to edit the whole paper, so have given some examples from the abstract here:

1. p. 1 population based) WITH 2018 respondent
2. Pakistan) AND INCLUDED
3. AND being male as well as
4. There was A positive association
5. could be a proxy FOR
6. as public health practitioners, we should inform THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE ILLITERATE, ABOUT THE ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF TOBACCO.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS INCORPORATED IN THE MANUSCRIPT

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Thank You

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31st December, 2007