Reviewer's report

Title: Nutritional status of Palestinian school adolescents and associated sociodemographic characteristics: cross sectional study in Ramallah and Hebron governorates.

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Reviewer: Abdulbari Bener

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript ID: PPE-2009-503
Title: 'Nutritional status of Palestinian school adolescents and associated sociodemographic characteristics: cross sectional study in Ramallah and Hebron governorates
Authors; Nahed Mikki, Hanan F Abdul-Rahim, Faisal Awartani and Gerd Holmboe-Ottesen
Journal: BMC Public Health Research article
Subject: Review

1. Title:
It is not appropriate to use “nutritional status” while the study only assess anthropometric status. Body mass index, overweight and obesity are some keywords that can be used. Since the study has not measured sources of food and vitamin and mineral deficiency. Also please check the correct word “Cross-sectional”
As per the results the correct age group of study population is 13-15 years. Please add adolescent aged 13-15 years in the title.

2. Abstract:
The objective of the study is not clear. The study target population should be included. Adolescents aged 13-15 years.

3. Introduction: The background is written well and is appropriate.

4. Subject and Methods:
The methodology states that 13-16 year children were included but results only describe children from 13-15 years. It is very essential to define how the age was calculated and how age in months was converted to age in years.
We can assume that author has classified
13 years 0 months to 13 years 12 months as age 13
14 years 0 months to 14 years 12 months as age 14
15 years 0 months to 15 years 12 months as age 15
5- Results:
Table 1. Total boys were 895 and total girls were 1047. (The discussion should include the reasons for this difference). Most of the children were aged 13 and 14 and age 15 groups was less than half for both boys and girls. Sample in age 15 years is smaller in the case of boys.
Table 2.
Table 3: Minor correction in table header titles, Must be corrected to title format. “Stunning” and “Obesity”
Table 4: Please add p-values to this table. Also it could be added as a footnote using markers or symbols similar to table 3. Also those variables which were not significant for univariate analysis must be excluded from this table.
6- Discussion:
Please compare Kuwait and Saudi Arabia data with caution as it is different age groups 10-14 yrs for Kuwait and only males for Saudi Arabia.
In discussion, studies from other Arab countries like Qatar can be included which have used the IOTF criteria. Please see:
References: The authors should reduce list of cited references by 50% and use only relevant and updated references.
7- Conclusion: The conclusion is in the light of the relevant literature.
8-References: Some updated references can be added
Finally, I propose that the above mentioned manuscript could to be accepted in Journal of BMC Public Health Research after suggested minor revision.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’