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: Mohsen Maddah

Reviewer's report:

This study described prevalence of stunting, overweight and obesity in a group of Palestinians adolescents. Data from this population is valuable since there is less information from this community. There are some points need to be addressed by the authors.

In title and in other parts of the manuscript it is not nutritional status of the population when only height and weight have been measured. The general term nutritional status includes a more comprehensive study including dietary survey and assessing micronutrient status of the population as well. So title of manuscript should be changed as “underweight and overweight among…..”

IOTF standard is not for identifying underweight adolescents. It is only used for identifying overweight and obesity. In Page 8, it says“using IOTF criteria few adolescents were found to be thin”

Selected socio-demographic factors should be named in the abstract. Data has not been adequately stratified by socioeconomic factors. First overweight/obesity and stunting should be reported by parental educational level, living area, sex, urban/rural residence and economic status then independent association of these variables with overweight/obesity can be shown in logistic regression analysis. The result is mostly focused on sex difference on the prevalence overweight and stunting.

Introduction has been not written very well. It has been said that adolescents live under condition of poverty. Then, why is this study looking for the prevalence of obesity in this population. Rather high prevalence of iron deficiency anemia among women is not an index of bad nutritional status of the whole population. It could be helpful if the authors could give some data on the prevalence of chronic disease in adult population to indicate that Palestine is experiencing nutrition transition.

I believe only social and economic variables should be included in multivariate analysis. Having puberty as the only biologic factor is misleading. This study is only looking on sociodemographic factors as the authors claimed.

First paragraph of result should be moved to method section. Much has been written in result section while tables gave values and significant levels.
Discussion needs to be improved as some finding has not been discussed. For example, why girls are more prone to obesity than boys? Are boys more physically active than girls in Palestine? Is girls’ dressing style, as Muslims, making them less concerned regarding thinness? While in western societies parental education is inversely related to overweight in adolescents why is it not the case in Palestinians?

**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’