Author’s response to reviews

Title: Correlates of current smoking among school-going adolescents in Punjab, India: results from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2003

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor

We are happy to resubmit our revised manuscript taking into consideration comments from the reviewers as follows:

Jagadish Mahanta

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After checking the manuscript several times we noted that we interchanged the labels for the factor: Receiving pocket money. We have now found that receiving pocket money was positively associated with smoking. We have also discussed the findings that were in paragraph 2 of the Discussion section. We hope we have addressed all the concerns raised by Jagadish Mahanta.

Silvano Gallus

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It was suggested that we should not consider in the analysis the weighting factor, or to justify the necessity to include it in the analysis. We still decided to weight our analysis because GYTS data are weighted to adjust for design effect, non-response, and post-stratification of the sample population relative to the grade and sex distribution in the total population. We have provided the reference to this effect.

We have re-read the entire manuscript and re-analysed the data, and in the process we noted typographic and grammatical errors that we have now corrected. The labels for receiving pocket money were interchanged, and as such the factor "receiving pocket money" is now positively associated with smoking.

We have also removed results on prevalence, age and sex in the abstract in the hope of leaving in only most important results from the current study. Age and sex were used in the analysis as confounding factors.

Classes for the various factors have been re-ordered as suggested by the
reviewer to: none, some, and most. We feel that we have addressed the reviewer's comments.

We appreciate the comments from the reviewers, and our manuscript reads a lot better.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Adamson S. Muula