Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Andrew Roddam

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I have reviewed only the statistical aspects of this manuscript. I was somewhat surprised at the effect that the sample weighting procedure had on the analysis, specifically the estimates of the standard errors. While a reference for this weighting factor is supplied, it is to another paper using data from this survey which doesn't give details/justification of the choice of weights, rather simply applies them. From the survey literature it is common that sample weighting actually inflates standard errors, rather than decreases them. This leads me to wonder whether or not the correct methods of estimating standard errors for sample weighting were employed. Such a method would account for the complex design - both within and between cluster errors effects adjusted for the overall sample size. I do not believe that one obtains the correct answer by performing a simple weighted logistic regression in SPSS (which from reading the manuscript appears to be what the authors have done) - hence the availability of an SPSS Complex Samples module.

The authors need to be more clear about their choice of weights and specifically make more detailed comments about how such weights were used in the analysis and how appropriate standard errors were calculated.