Reviewer's report

Title: Uncovering risky behaviors of expatriate teenagers in the United Arab Emirates: a survey of tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity habits

Version: 1
Date: 13 July 2015
Reviewer: Seung Hee Choi

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript reported the prevalence of tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity among expatriate teenagers in the United Arab Emirates.

The authors pointed out the gaps of literature and fulfilled some of them. But the manuscript has major flaws.

1. Major Compulsory Revisions.

1-1) Overall, this manuscript is hard to follow. That is because the authors used "nutrition", "diet", and BMI status (obesity, overweight) interchangeably, which is not correct. Also the order of the main outcomes--tobacco use, diet, and physical activity--is not consistent, which makes readers hard to follow.

1-2) Line 111, when the authors stated the aims of the study, "anti-tobacco media/legislation effectiveness and health education..." is introduced too sudden. They should introduce them before.

1-3) In Methods, please state the design of the study.

1-4) Line 126, "We focused on ninth graders because the literature suggested that smoking tobacco becomes a highly relevant topic...". Please provide references.

1-5) From line 133, please provide more detailed information on measurements including the number of items, reliability and validity. No information on measures of environmental factors and educational factors is provided.

1-6) Line 176, "Of note, we found that disposable income was only weakly correlated with tobacco product experimentation: cigarettes (r=0.06)...." Please provide P-values, so readers can know the significance.

1-7) Line 181, "Interestingly 55.5% of the cohort reports currently trying to lose weight even though only 23.5% reported that...." Move this sentence to the place where you talk about tobacco use since the sentence is nothing about diet.

1-8) Line 196, start with main findings in Discussion.

1-9) Line 246, tobooru --> tobacco

1-10) Comments on the tables. When you present frequency tables, please
provide n (number of subjects) as well as %.

2. Minor Essential Revisions

2-1) Why did you include only ninth graders when you wanted to study health behaviors among teenagers? You might want to provide rationales for selecting ninth graders.

2-2) If you explore some correlations among the variables, that would provide much more interesting findings. For examples, what is the differences between those who used tobacco products and those who did not....

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.