Reviewer's report

Title: Indian adolescents' perceptions of the home food environment

Version: 0 Date: 17 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Rachel Tabak

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written study that describes the perceived home environments of a group of adolescents in India, which is novel and under-represented. The major limitations relate to the description of the sample and its generalizability. Additional comments are listed below:

Page 3, lines 47-8 (beginning "A healthy diet can…") some people argue that this statement is controversial; adding citations could strengthen this argument.

Reference 17, regarding the % of energy obtained at home is quite old. Is there more up-to-date data, perhaps specific to India? Dietary patterns may have changed since 2005.

Preparation of the survey measure is extensive, but reliability and validity evidence are not provided here; it would be helpful if this manuscript indicated that test retest reliability is available in the previous publication (ref#30).

Limitation in terms of generalizability (only English-speaking, private schools, one age group, and one city) and the implications of this limitation should be discussed in greater detail in the strengths/limitations section.

Additional data about the sample (esp. given the limits to generalizability) such as family income, parental education status, parent(s) working outside the home, and how representative these are of Kolkata and India would help put the findings in perspective. If this data is not available, this limitation should be acknowledged.

Page 7, lines 144-6 (beginning with "Except for one food rule…"). I think it would be helpful if the full result was provided (i.e., what was the prevalence of this requirement for each gender? Or in what direction was the difference by gender?).

Page 9, lines 200-204 (beginning with "Approximately, three-fifths of the"), were the example rules asked about in the Australian and American samples similar to those used in the current
study. Rules around chewing with the mouth closed may be more common than some asked about on other survey items (e.g., getting up from the table before being excused) - I assume this is what is meant by the measure being the same, but I was curious about the examples provided.

This statement "Probably, the mothers used their dietary knowledge to guide their domestic help in meal preparation." seems like a leap without citations from previous studies.

Page 12, line 262 In the Conclusion section, I'm not sure "is an important influence over" is appropriate, given the cross sectional nature of the study.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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