Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and correlates of positive mental health in Chinese adolescents

Version: 0 Date: 17 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Young-Jin Lim

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this manuscript which presents a study examining prevalence and determinants of positive mental health in Chinese adolescents.

1. The authors considered positive mental health as a variable of diagnosis instead of taking it as continuous variable. Thus, the authors need to provide more rationale as to diagnosis of positive mental health.

2. The authors need to provide more rationale as to focusing on adolescents instead of a general population (e.g. has there been less attention paid to adolescents?, is mental disorder more or less prevalent in adolescents as opposed to adults in China?, are there cases that focusing health promotion efforts on adolescents may prevent mental illness occurring later on?)

3. The paper does not specify hypotheses. Though making specific hypothesis is not always necessary, it is important to set up expectations as to how the relationship will be like, based on past literature

4. This study are based on the premise that hedonia and eudaimonia are different theoretical perspectives. The authors need to consider elaborating on the theoretical position of the Chinese version of the MHC-SF in the context of the hedonia-eudaimonia debate with opposing points of view (e.g. Henderson & Knight, 2012; Kashdan et al., 2009).

5. The authors need to provide reasons why it is interesting to study positive mental health in China. References to the extensive work on values in a Chinese society are needed. Also, some questions about cultural differences need to be elaborated in this study (e.g. is there any confirming or disconfirming evidence that the typology of positive mental
health holds in China? Is there Chinese specific positive mental health that are not covered by the MHC-SF? Are there specific reasons to expect similar or dissimilar findings from other countries?).

6. This study showed that satisfaction of self-appearance and self-satisfaction of weight predict flourishing status. Authors assume satisfaction of self-appearance and self-satisfaction of weight causing positive mental health as the more plausible hypothesis, not discussing at all the two additional possibilities: (a) positive mental health causing satisfaction of self-appearance and self-satisfaction of weight, and (b) a third variable causing both positive mental health and satisfaction of self-appearance/self-weight. For example, mental disorder (i.e., eating disorder) could affect satisfaction of self-appearance and self-satisfaction of weight, mental disorder and, at the same time, hinder positive mental health.

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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