Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between empirically derived dietary patterns with blood lipids, fasting blood glucose and blood pressure in adults - The India Migration Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #1: General comments: The authors complied with most of the suggestions (e.g., they included the blood pressure variables in the analysis, changed the title, added relevant information to introduction and discussion sections and described some methodological procedures with more detail), which improved the manuscript quality.

Thank you very much

However, minor corrections are still necessary.

- Results, Characteristics of the Dietary Patterns, lines 227-228: As the authors did not present the scree plot in the manuscript (neither as a Supplementary Material), please mention "(data
not shown)” after the following sentence "When we visually examined the scree plot, we observed a sharp drop after the first three components, after which the curve became substantially shallower”.

Thanks for this suggestion. We have mentioned “(data not shown)” as suggested. Line 228

- Results, Association of dietary patterns with blood lipids, fasting glucose and blood pressure, lines 268-269: The ”)” is missing at the end of the sentence.

Mistake corrected. Many Thanks for very minute observation.

- Results, Association of dietary patterns with blood lipids, fasting glucose and blood pressure, line 275: Please, remove the word "and" before the FBG.

Yes, corrected. Thank you.

- Supplemental Tables 2 (a,b,c): Please, standardize the presentation for "Ref" category of the variables as used in Table 2 (note that in Supplemental Tables, the authors presented "0.00 (Ref)" whereas in Table 2, there was only "Ref").

Yes, corrected. Thank you.

- Supplemental Table 3: The columns with SBP and DBP results are lacking. Please, include the results about blood pressure variables in the table as presented in the previous ones.

Our sincere apologies for this exclusion. We have now included SBP and DBP in supplemental Table 3

- Discussion, page 15, lines 345-347: I suggest moving the sentence about the "fruit-vegetables-sweets-snacks" to the previous paragraph for a better and comprehensive supporting of the discussion on the association between this dietary pattern with DBP. For this, please, do the necessary modifications in the writing style.

Thank you for this suggestion. We have discussed the results of 'fruit-vegetables-sweets-snacks' in the earlier paragraph as suggested (highlighted in yellow; lines 332-334). We have re-
discussed in the following paragraph to lend some support for ‘animal food’ pattern in terms of high salt content (highlighted in yellow; lines 343-348).

Reviewer #2: The article is clearer, but follows minor revisions:

Suggestion:

page 12 - line 284

Suggestion: change "overall null" to "no"

Yes, corrected. Thank you.

page 20 - footnote *

1) The text for "*" is still unclear

suggestion: * p-values for difference in means (using ANOVA) or proportions (using Chi-square test)

(we found a p<0.0001 for all comparison between the regions)

Yes, corrected. Many thanks for this suggestion.