Reviewer's report

Title: Gender inequalities in diet quality and their socioeconomic patterning in a nutrition transition context in the Middle East and North Africa: a cross sectional study in Tunisia

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Lisa Teh

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and important paper that highlights the differences in food consumption patterns between males and females in Tunisia as the culture transitions from a traditional diet to a globalized diet. The careful teaching and tracking of dietary intake was particularly valuable in providing information that could be utilized in informing nutritional interventions in this population. Below are my suggestions to improve your manuscript:

1. I strongly suggest having the paper copy-edited by a native English speaker. There are several confusing sentences and the manuscript generally lacks concise language which, can lead to confusion in interpreting important points and can take up unnecessary space in your manuscript.

2. The most interesting points of this article relate to the cultural transition between traditional diets and diets based on imported market foods. However, this manuscript contains insufficient information on the traditional diet and the process of this transition for readers to understand the impact of diet transition on the people of Tunisia. Please provide more information on: a) a brief description of the makeup of the traditional diet, b) an estimate (if available) on the proportion of traditional food vs. foreign food in modern diets, c) any information on gender differences in food consumption with traditional diets, and d) a description of the comparison of the nutritional quality between traditional and globalized diets.

3. You have alluded to differences in Tunisian gender social norms influencing food choices. This is a highlight of your paper, but more information is needed. Please briefly specify some of these social norms.

4. Throughout the paper, please change the wording of all the references to "women vs. men [differences, inequities, etc.]" to "gender [differences, inequities, etc.]". This will increase the readability and word economy of the paper.

5. On page 4, line 100, please briefly specify why this age range was chosen.
6. There are several places throughout the paper in which a P-value is presented without the related statistic. This is confusing. For all odds ratios, it is standard to present the OR values and CI ranges rather than percentages. Likewise, if there were t-tests or other analyses done (for example in the sample characteristics section), please report those values.

7. It is not necessary to specify where detailed data is not shown.

8. In the methods and results sections, please change the term "inequalities" to "differences," as the term inequality has negative connotations to it that are more appropriately addressed in the discussion.

9. Please briefly describe why the DQI-I was chosen over other available tools. If there is data on the reliability and validity for the DQI-I from your study or others, please describe this in the methods section. Please briefly describe the reasoning for the cutoffs.

10. Lines 283-287 discuss the specific findings on the consumption of various foods in your sample. This does not appear to be directly relevant to the topic of the paper at hand. Please remove.

11. There are several references to studies from other countries, including an old study from the USA, that do not seem particularly relevant to the topic of the current study. Please remove these. In general, it would be more interesting if your discussion elaborated more on the implications of the main findings within the cultural context of Tunisia. It might also be helpful to describe the strengths, weaknesses, and future directions of your study in the discussion.

12. In the conclusion section and elsewhere, capitalize the DQI-I subscale names.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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