**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Impact of parent-adolescent bonding on school bullying and mental health in Vietnamese cultural setting: evidence from the Global School-based Health Survey.

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 28 Sep 2018

**Reviewer:** Cixin Wang

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the article titled "Impact of parent-adolescent bonding on school bullying and mental health in Vietnamese cultural setting: evidence from the Global School-based Health Survey." I believe this is a less studied population and the topic is interesting. Authors used a large representative sample which is a strength of this study. I have some suggestions and comments, and hope these will be helpful for the authors in an effort to improve the paper.

**Introduction:**

Authors need to strengthen the introduction to build a stronger rational for your research questions and hypothesis. For example, you talked about parenting style broadly. But what is the definition of parent-adolescent bonding, and how does it related to your outcomes? You stated that "Vietnamese parenting styles draw mostly on Buddhist beliefs, emphasizing the interdependence of the family, respect for adults, and obedience toward parents." Do you think the results will be different from studies conducted in U.S. and other Western countries?

Specific research questions and hypotheses are needed.

**Method:**

Why did you use four binary outcome variables instead of continuous variables? It looks like you have some continuous measures on bullying and mental health outcomes (e.g., "how many days...").

You stated that "Parent-adolescent bonding was defined according to two components: parental acceptance and parental control." Have these measures been validated before? Some items in the parental acceptance scale seem to be measuring parental knowledge or parental monitoring, e.g., "How often did your parents or guardians really know what you were doing with your free time..."
during the past 30 days?” I do not think those items are measuring bonding. You can just call them what they really are, e.g., parental knowledge, parental control.

Results:
In addition to reporting p value and CI, can you also report R square?

Discussion:
Some part of the discussion reads like a summary of results. An in depth discussion about the contribution of your study is needed.

Minor issues:
Authors need to edit the paper for typos carefully. For example,
P3. The topic changed suddenly. E.g., "The core issues of violence among adolescents in school magnify concerns about school bullying." consider adding a transition sentence?
P3. Missing the word "and" in this sentence: "Bullying behaviors differ between sexes, ethnic groups"
p.4 "Studies in the USA conducted in adolescents…" Maybe change to "among adolescents."
p.11 "The results of the present study suggest that the parent-adolescent relationship influence to mental health of adolescents." you should delete the word "to" in the sentence.
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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