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: 1 Date: 17 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Richard Rowe

Reviewer's report:

I am grateful to the authors for being so responsive to my comments. I believe the revision process has substantially improved the ms. I still think a few further revisions:

1. The authors have made helpful revisions regarding defining their approach to parental bonding in response to the comments of both reviewers. However, the introduction still needs to clarify what the concept of overprotection means.

2. p4 line 8. It is stated that parent-adolescent connection has changed in Vietnam; this claim needs evidential support.

3. In my original review I highlighted the problem that the language of the paper makes causal assumptions. While the authors have made attempts to reduce this language, it still remains in several places, including the abstract. For example, p4 line 12 talks about the protective and negative elements of bonding. However, it is possible that the characteristics of bonding are the result of the child's mental health state rather than the cause. I think this is particularly relevant to the parenting variables; increased monitoring may well result from the child being very difficult to monitor, for example. I believe the paper would be improved if the authors discussed the alternative causal pathways that may exist between variables in the main section of the discussion rather than leaving this until the limitations section. They may also find reference to the following paper helpful. This paper reviews evidence on the causality of a number of the relationships discussed in this ms:

4. The aOR term needs to be defined in the abstract.

**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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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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