Author’s response to reviews

Title: In-School adolescents' weight status and blood pressure profile in South-western Nigeria: urban-rural comparison

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Author’s response to reviews:

The Editor in Chief,

BMC Obesity

Dear Sir,

Authors’ point by point response to Editor’s comments

Title: IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS’ WEIGHT STATUS AND BLOOD PRESSURE PROFILE IN SOUTH-WESTERN NIGERIA: URBAN-RURAL COMPARISON

Editor’s comment

"- Please put more emphasis on obesity. Especially the discussion's first paragraph -

Authors’response

An opening paragraph/ statement has been introduced which emphasizes obesity. [This study assessed the weight status of adolescents (normal weight, overweight and obese) and related it to their blood pressure profile and confirmed that in both urban and rural areas, the weight status has a relationship with the blood pressure. Most of the overweight and obese respondents were form urban areas.]
However, the editor should kindly note that apart from the second paragraph (now) which emphasizes blood pressure, the next four paragraphs solely talked about overweight and obesity, while the last two talked about BP and obesity. Thus, obesity is not overlooked in any way.

Editor’s comment

Please make more clear what the difference is between your study and earlier studies from Nigeria on the same topic. At the end of your manuscript it becomes clear that your study is new because you focus on rural and urban schools. Were earlier studies based on urban or rural schools only or did they have a focus on both but without studying the settings separately?

Authors’response

The major difference is this was a comparative study between urban and rural areas, most studies have either been done in solitary urban or rural settings or a combination of semi-urban and urban settings. This has now been properly mentioned in the first statement of the the fourth paragraph in the introduction. [Apart from using International reference standards to measure obesity and high BP, an additional contribution to knowledge being made by this study is that it was conducted in both urban and rural areas].

Editor’s comment

Why did you develop an aim to assess urban and rural schools separately?

Authors’response

The statement below clarifies this and it was added to the fourth chapter of the introduction “Because of the different characteristics of urban and rural dwellers in terms of family values, dietary pattern, physical activity and exposure to social amenities, the pattern of obesity/ hypertensive range blood pressure is expected to be different between the two areas. Thus, it is expected that the prevalence and determining factors of obesity/ hypertensive range blood pressure may differ between rural and urban areas, hence the comparative nature of this study. This is a very important consideration in determining intervention strategies to apply to both rural and urban settings.”

Editor’s comment

Please make clear WHEN your data collection has taken place. Did you use the same data as used in the earlier studies from Nigeria.

Authors’response
Data collection took place in 2012 and a different data from the ones previously used in Nigeria was collected by the authors and this has been inserted in the opening paragraph of the methodology as shown below.

[The study was carried out in Osun State, one of the six states in south-western Nigeria in the year 2012 and primary data was independently collected by the authors.]

Yours faithfully,

Olowookere SA
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