Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and factors associated with overweight and obesity among adults in Hawassa city, Southern Ethiopia: A community based cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Dorothea Keszyüs

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Manuscript Number: OBSY-18-00034

Title: Prevalence and factors associated with overweight and obesity among adults in Hawassa city, Southern Ethiopia: A community based cross-sectional study

In this manuscript the authors report cross sectional data regarding the prevalence of overweight and obesity in the adult population of Hawassa city, Ethiopia. Data were collected in a community-based survey in a prespecified sampling approach. Risk factors or known factors associated with overweight and obesity were assessed and tested in statistical procedures.

Comments and recommendations on the content of the manuscript

Overall: This is a very well-written manuscript and a carefully performed examination of a highly interesting topic. However, there are some imbalances that have to be addressed. Firstly, I am not a native speaker but I think the English requires (primarily grammatical) corrections in some places.

Abstract:

Results, line 30: Here you report 28.2%, later on (Results, line 225) you report 28.0%

Results, line 37: I know that in regression analyses the term "predictor" is a correct designation for an independent variable, but in the context of a cross-sectional study, "predictor" may be misunderstood by the reader and implicate causality. Therefore I would recommend, using another expression regarding the association of physical activity and overweight/obesity.

Methods:

Page 6, line 89: "51.9% were adults 15-64 years of age" are 15 year olds already considered adult?
- Page 6, line 101: "using single population proportion formula". For all non-epidemiologists, please give a brief explanation what this means.

- Page 7, line 123: Please add a reference for the DHS questionnaire

- What kind of FFQ has been used? Was it an already existing validated questionnaire or was it a proprietary tool?

- Page 8, second paragraph: With regard to page 18, line 289, why didn't you measure waist circumference?

- Page 8, line 142: I would recommend to write BMI ≥ 25 to < 30

- Ethical considerations: Has the study been registered in any study register?

- Data analysis: Please report your α level for significance for the final logistic regression model (α = 0.05 for two-sided tests)

Results:

- Page 14, line 210: here you mention sugar sweetened beverages, this should also be reported in the methods section. Please give a more detailed description on how sweets and sugar (and sugar sweetened beverages) were assessed, especially against the background of the importance for overweight and obesity. Furthermore, was the consumption of coffee and tea divided into with and without sugar? I almost can't believe that no one consumed sugar more than once a day!

Discussion:

- Page 18, line 298: developing instead of developed?

- Page 20, line 332: I have never heard of the "flat slope syndrome" and could not even find a clue on Google, could you give me a short explanation? You should mention "social desirability".
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.

Unable to assess

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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