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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Food Research and Nutrition**](https://journalajfrn.com/index.php/AJFRN) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJFRN\_131214** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **YOUTH PREFERENCES OF FORTIFIED PRODUCTS IN LUCKNOW CITY: EXPLORING CONSUMPTION PATTERN AND BARRIERS** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This paper is important to the scientific community, as fortification of foods is one of the most preferred methods for alleviating deficiency of any particular nutrient at a mass level. It also offers a cost-effective solution for tackling malnutrition. The general population has also developed a heightened interest in fortified foods and their implications on health. | Thanks |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The title of the article is suitable and appropriate. |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | Some suggestions for the abstract are:   1. The abstract can be divided into sections like background information, methods, major findings and conclusion. 2. A line about the conclusion of the study should be included in the abstract. | As per the given instructions, the abstract section has been edited for clarity and structured into sub sections. Additionally, a concluding line has been included for completeness. |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | The manuscript seems well-organized and appropriate for the study topic. Here are some detailed observations on each section:  1. **Introduction** highlights the significance of fortified foods and includes citations from current and relevant sources.  2. **Methodology** –  a. The age range of the youth selected or the study should be specified.  b. The target population's characteristics should be clearly defined in this section and inclusion and exclusion criteria specified to have a robust sample.  c. Details should be mentioned about the sections in the questionnaire.  d. Was any explanation regarding what are fortified foods given to the selected subjects?  3. **Results and Discussion-**  a. The paper lacks any discussion from the secondary literature.  b. There is no background information- mean age, gender, education level, etc. about the subjects.  c. There are too many figures and the same information is written in the description of the images.  d. Table 1 should have a footnote regarding multiple responses being selected by the subjects.  e. The results can be divided into sections in which enablers and barriers to the consumption of fortified foods can be grouped separately. | In the methodology section, the age range of the participants has been included along with a description of key characteristics of the target population. And also a brief overview of the different sections of the question and has been provided. A footnote has also been added below the table as for the requested changes. The results and discussion section has also been elaborated for depth. |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | The references are recent and up to the mark. In-text citations need to be cross-checked, with the journal style. | 3 new references are also added. |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Language is simple and lucid. However, a few grammatical errors are there like-   1. A comma is missing at many places eg. additionally, furthermore, etc. should be followed by a comma. 2. More clarity is required in some sentences like- Fortification is infused into everyday food items through two distinct methods adding back and addition. 3. In many places, subject-verb agreement is not there e.g. Vitamin and mineral deficiency is/ are 4. The most popular fortified foods are cereal grains and cereal-based product, includes fortified   Includes to be replaced by including.  My suggestion here is that the entire paper should be read by a native English speaker and errors be removed. | All the highlighted errors have also been corrected in the final manuscript. |
| Optional/General comments | **The paper has some scope for improvement, after which it can become an important contribution to the existing body of knowledge.** |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |