

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Current Journal of Applied Science and Technology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_CJAST_130763
Title of the Manuscript:	Evaluation of Potential Underreporting of Overweight and Obesity in Children Aged 6–11 Years in a Primary Care Unit: A Cross-Sectional Study
Type of the Article	

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal’s peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of ‘**lack of Novelty**’, provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>																																										
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 study provides valuable insights into the underreporting of nutritional status when assessed using weight and BMI in pediatric populations. These findings are crucial for healthcare providers in refining strategies for monitoring, planning, and managing pediatric growth and development more effectively.	Thank you for recognising the relevance and potential impact of our study. We are pleased that you find the findings valuable for healthcare providers. Your positive feedback encourages us to continue addressing critical issues in paediatric nutritional assessment.																																										
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Tittle well define the aim, population and design of the study.	Thank you for your positive feedback on the title. We are glad that it effectively conveys the study's aim, population, and design, as clarity in the title is an important aspect of communicating our research.																																										
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.	<div><div>1. Aim - To explore the underreporting of nutritional status measured by BMI category among children aged 6–11 years in primary care</div><div>2. Study design, place and duration of study can be combined under Methodology</div></div>	We appreciate your feedback. We greatly appreciate your attention to detail. We confirm that the study design, location, and duration are already included in the Methodology section. However, we will review the structure to ensure these elements are presented in a more cohesive and concise manner, in line with your recommendation.																																										
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	<div>The manuscript presents a relevant and timely investigation into the underreporting of nutritional status among children aged 6-11 years in primary care settings. While the research is well-structured, several areas require revision to enhance clarity, specificity, and scientific rigor.</div> <div><div><div>1. The study aims – Authors can add on the measure use to assess the nutritional status of the population (as mentioned above)</div><div>2. Methodology – It is sound; however, further clarification is needed:<div><div>1. Justification for choosing the study period (January to December 2022)</div><div>2. The criteria used for determining whether the children were referred to specialized care services.</div></div></div><div>3. Presentation of results:<div><div>1. It is sufficient for the authors to present only Mean, SD and IQR in Table 1 & 2.</div><div>2. For better comparison in Table 2, Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5, authors can make the table as follow:</div></div></div></div><table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Girls</th><th colspan="2">Boys</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>M(SD)</th><th>IQR</th><th>M(SD)</th><th>IQR</th></tr><tr><td>Age</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Weight</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Height</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BMI</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table><div>Table 3. Population by Age</div><table><tr><th>Age (years)</th><th>Total n, % (95%CI)</th><th>Girls n, % (95%CI)</th><th>Boys n, % (95%CI)</th></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div>		Girls		Boys			M(SD)	IQR	M(SD)	IQR	Age					Weight					Height					BMI					Age (years)	Total n, % (95%CI)	Girls n, % (95%CI)	Boys n, % (95%CI)	6				7				<div>Thank you for your thoughtful and constructive feedback. We are pleased that you find the investigation relevant and timely. We appreciate your suggestions for improvement and will carefully address the areas requiring revision to enhance the clarity, specificity, and scientific rigour of the manuscript.</div> <div>Thank you for your suggestion. We appreciate your attention to detail and agree that specifying the measure used to assess the nutritional status will enhance the clarity of the study's aims. We will revise the section "1.1 The Aims of the Study" to include the measure utilised, as follows: "This study aims to explore the underreporting of nutritional status among children aged 6–11 years in primary care, assessed using BMI categories (From WHO). Additionally, the study will evaluate the prevalence of overweight and obesity by age and sex and examine whether identified cases are being referred to specialised services, such as paediatrics or nutrition."</div> <div>We appreciate your attention to this detail. The justification for the choice of the study period (January to December 2022) has now been added to the manuscript, highlighting that this timeframe corresponds to when the study was registered and executed and provides the most recent and comprehensive data available in the consultation registry system.</div> <div>Thank you for your comment. The criteria for determining whether a child should be referred to a specialist are based on their nutritional status, as outlined in the clinical practice guidelines. These guidelines recommend referral to specialists, such as paediatricians or nutritionists, when a child's nutritional</div>
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	<div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="4">Table 4. Population by BMI category and Sex</th></tr><tr><th>BMI category</th><th>Total n, % (95%CI)</th><th>Girls n, % (95%CI)</th><th>Boys n, % (95%CI)</th></tr><tr><td>NW</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>UW</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>OW</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Obesity</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="4">Table 5. Report on overweight and obesity among Paediatric attending Primary Care Consultations</th></tr><tr><th>Diagnosed</th><th>Total n, % (95%CI)</th><th>Girls n, % (95%CI)</th><th>Boys n, % (95%CI)</th></tr><tr><td>No</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Yes</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><div>3. Discussion</div><div>The discussion provides valuable insights, but the interpretation should be more focused on the study's key findings. The authors should discuss the clinical significance of underreporting in the context of policy implications.</div><div>4. Conclusion</div><div>The conclusion is well-structured but should reinforce the study's contributions and implications. Avoid introducing new information in the conclusion that was not previously discussed. Suggested revision: "This study highlights a significant gap in the identification and referral of overweight and obese children in primary care. The findings underscore the need for systematic screening protocols and improved documentation practices to enhance early diagnosis and intervention."</div></div>	Table 4. Population by BMI category and Sex				BMI category	Total n, % (95%CI)	Girls n, % (95%CI)	Boys n, % (95%CI)	NW				UW				OW				Obesity				Table 5. Report on overweight and obesity among Paediatric attending Primary Care Consultations				Diagnosed	Total n, % (95%CI)	Girls n, % (95%CI)	Boys n, % (95%CI)	No				Yes				<p>status indicates a risk of overweight or obesity, to ensure timely intervention and management.</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback regarding the tables. We have made the requested adjustments to all tables except Table 2. We believe it is important to retain all the statistical information in Table 2 as it provides a comprehensive overview that is crucial for the study's analysis and interpretation. If further clarification is needed, we are happy to provide additional details.</p> <p>Thank you for your valuable suggestion. We have revised the discussion section to ensure a stronger focus on the study's key findings. Additionally, we have incorporated an analysis of the clinical significance of underreporting, particularly in the context of its policy implications.</p> <p>Thank you for your valuable feedback. We have revised the conclusion to incorporate the suggested revision and ensure it reinforces the study's key contributions and implications. The updated conclusion now clearly highlights the gap in the identification and referral of overweight and obese children, emphasising the need for systematic screening and improved documentation practices, as discussed throughout the manuscript.</p>
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Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	Yes																																									
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	Yes																																									
Optional/General comments	The manuscript presents valuable research but requires minor to moderate revisions to enhance clarity, specificity, and presentation. Improving the aims, restructuring the results with better table formatting, and refining the discussion will strengthen the study's impact. Addressing these concerns will enhance the manuscript's quality and potential for publication.	Thank you for your constructive feedback. We greatly appreciate your recognition of the research's value. We have carefully addressed the suggested revisions, including refining the aims, restructuring the results for clearer presentation, improving table formatting, and enhancing the discussion to better highlight the study's impact. We believe these changes will significantly improve the manuscript's clarity and presentation, and we are confident they will strengthen its potential for publication.																																								

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)	