Reviewer's report

**Title:** Variable Selection among Correlates of Elevated Blood Pressure in Adolescent Girls

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 7 October 2015

**Reviewer:** Suchitra Parkhad

**Reviewer's report:**

1. The study concept is well designed and presented but flaws, the topic is not new except the correlation with the FFM, which is not too well defined, in case of sample size and also the categorization of the sample or the subjects is not well defined in relation to the variation with the BP variables. Parameters like FFM and its correlation with BP is not well defined.

2. As pertaining to the data, there is adequacy but the racial classification if done is not well defined if two groups are mixed on which basis?

3. The interpretation of the results is done in well manner and in unbiased way, supported to the data

4. It is Not clear to understand why the author has gone for oscillometry method for measuring the BP when reliable ways such as auscultatory methods are available.

5. The strength of the study is the selection of the parameters and the sample size also the parameters selection makes it strong. The flaws are in the form of racial categorization, use of oscillometry and the author could not establish the correlation between high stature and FFM

6. The study will look more impressive if the bar diagrams or pie charts are added specially for Table 2 and 3 for explaining the matrix.

7. Author should try to explain the use of oscillometry in the study, there is not clear and crisp explanation how FFM and stature are correlated with each other as well as their individual correlation with the blood pressure.

   coherence of the paper needs to be improved by adding pie charts and bar diagram for the tables suggested as above.

8. No any ethical or competing interests issues

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.