

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-52965**

Date: 7/23/25

**Title:** Prevalence of electronic cigarette Smoking and its Related Behaviors and Beliefs Among high School Students in Makkah, Saudi Arabia

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

**Accept after minor revision...√.....**

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

| Rating         | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality    | √      |      |      |      |
| Techn. Quality |        | √    |      |      |
| Clarity        |        | √    |      |      |
| Significance   | √      |      |      |      |

Reviewer Name: Dr Azadeh Moosavi

**Date:** Date: 7/23/25

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

*(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)*

*The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.*

*This timely study addresses a critical public health gap by revealing alarmingly high e-cigarette use (27.1%) among adolescents in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. Its robust methodology and identification of unique local drivers—such as maternal smoking as a key predictor (OR=8.00), school-based purchases (41.9%), and the dominance of fruit-flavored nicotine products—provide vital evidence for policymakers. The findings urgently call for culturally tailored interventions in understudied regions.*

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

1.

### Clarity in Methodology:

Clarify how "classes per grade" were randomly selected (Page 3, Line 73). Specify if all students in chosen classes participated or if further sampling occurred.

Justify the use of 50% prevalence in sample size calculation (Page 3, Line 75) by referencing similar regional studies or pilot data.

### Results Presentation:

## **REVIEWER'S REPORT**

Table 2 (Page 8): The response option "I could use them to do tricks" has 0.8% (N=1). Consider merging with "Other reasons" to avoid over-interpreting outliers.

Discussion (Page 22, Lines 236–237): Reconcile the stated female predominance (33.5%) with logistic regression results (Table 9), where female gender was not a significant predictor ( $p=0.082$ ). Discuss this discrepancy.

### **Contextualization of Findings:**

Compare Saudi Arabia's 27.1% prevalence with nearby Gulf/MENA countries to contextualize "alarming" rates (Page 22, Line 234).

Expand policy recommendations: Link "taxation" (Page 24, Line 283) to the finding that high weekly spending ( $OR=1.19$ ) enables access.

### **Limitations:**

Address cross-sectional design's inability to establish causality.

Note potential self-reporting bias (e.g., underreporting due to stigma).