

Authors' response

We thank you for the in-depth review of the article. Statistically, there are no clear cut methodological definitions for multi-stage cluster randomized sampling and multi-stage cluster sampling. We agree that the design of the study can be labelled as multi-stage cluster sampling. As stated, the Chandigarh city is divided into three zones by two main roads and we have chosen two sectors from each of the three zones. These sectors were selected by simple random sampling. After that, the first house again was selected from within each selected sector by simple random sampling. Starting from that house, all the eligible people ≥ 20 yr of age were screened from the consecutive houses till a sample size of at least 375 was reached in that sector. However,

because of the unequal distribution of population in the three zones (zone I-25314, zone II- 105674, zone III- 132146), the probability of selecting a particular subject from the total population was not uniform. Therefore, the inverse of probability of selection was employed as the weight for that subject .

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