**Development and validation of a quantitative food frequency questionnaire to assess free sugar intake among Sri Lankan preschool children**

Shanika Mututanthri1,2, Tharanga Thoradeniya3, Rebecca Harris1

**1**Department of Public Health, Policy and Systems, University of Liverpool, Whelan Building, Quadrangle, Liverpool L69 3GB, United Kingdom.

2Ministry of health, Colombo, Sri Lanka

3Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Corresponding Author

1. Shanika Mututanthri

Mailing address: 52, Thirlmere Road, Everton, Liverpool, L5 6PP, Merseyside, United

 Kingdom.

Email: shanikaayanthi1976@gmail.com

Telephone: +44 7878530708

Shortened version of the title

Validation of FFQ to assess free sugar intake

Abbreviations

95% CI – 95% confidence Interval

ECC – Early Childhood Caries

FFQ – Food Frequency Questionnaire

24hDR – 24-hour Dietary Recall

ICC - Intra-class Correlation Coefficient

IQR – Inter Quartile Range

SCC - Spearman rank Correlation Coefficient

P – Probability value

Key words

Food Frequency Questionnaire

Free sugar intake

Development

Relative validation

Preschool Children

Disclosure statements

* Acknowledgements:

Not Applicable

* Financial support:

Authors did not receive any financial support for the above study.

* Conflicts of Interest:

Authors have no conflicts of interest.

* Authorship:

SM- Designing and conducting the study, data analysis, interpretation of data, article writing

TT- Designing the study, data interpretation, reviewed the article, Supervision and mentorship

RH- Technical supervision, reviewed the article and editing

* Ethical Standards Disclosure:

Ethical approval to conduct the study was gained from the Ethics Review committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo prior to data collection (EC-17-001). According to our confirmation, all methods followed relevant guidelines and regulations.

Written informed consent was obtained from the primary caregivers of all study participants.