Project Number: SCS14004

Client: Dr. Amy Mobley, Laura Joseph

Affiliation: Department of Nutritional Sciences

Consultant: Dooti Roy

Attendees: Dr. Amy Mobley, Dr. Ming H Chen, Laura Joseph, Dooti Roy

Location: CLAS 326

Time and Date: 11:30-1:00 p.m., 02/21/2014

Meeting Summary:

In the initial meeting the clients explained the data collection procedure in details. A walk-through was provided of the dataset provided for analyses. The goals of the projects were laid out. The primary interest is to establish if the education program was positively influencing the kid’s choices of snacks (unhealthy to healthy). The second goal of the project is studying the characteristic of the sample children who were positively influenced by the program and finding out if there are any identifiable traits in them as compared to the other half of the children sample who were either not or were negatively influenced by the program.

Main Points Discussed:

The program consisted of 9 consecutive educative sessions stretching over 2 weeks aimed at preschool children. Each of these sessions were aimed at educating preschool children about healthy and unhealthy snack choices. Before the first session and after the last session, three tests were conducted: one testing a child’s knowledge of the healthiness of the snack, one testing the choice of a child on paper between healthy and unhealthy snack and the third one testing the actual choice a child makes when presented with both the snack choices. Around 70 children participated in the study. 21 of them did not undergo the tests at the end of the sessions. Clients confirm that the dropouts were at random. There were also instances of children missing an intermediate session at random. There were only two snack choices provided for the testing purpose: grapes (healthy) and cookies (unhealthy). The dataset recorded the choices for each child. The dataset also contained other variables such as BMI, race, gender, age etc. Along with this there were questionnaires aimed at parents snack choices and parents evaluations of child’s snack choices. There are two major goals:

* Whether the program positively influenced a child’s snack choice?
* Studying any particular characteristics and traits of children who were positively influenced by the program?

The clients are not sure how to handle the missing data.

Action:

1. Dooti will provide the initial data mining results to Laura.
2. The students missing partial information will be studied for common characteristics with those with complete information and a subjective imputation might be used.