Reviewer's report

Title: The screening of visual impairment among preschool children in an urban population in Malaysia; the Kuching Pediatric Eye Study: a cross sectional study.

Version: 1 Date: 23 January 2013

Reviewer: Krishnaiah Sannapaneni

Reviewer's report:

Comments to authors:

This is a preschool screening study conducted in Malaysia which aimed to find the prevalence and causes of visual impairment among preschool children aged 4 to 6 years. In general, the research question was well defined and the study conducted was appropriate. However, there are some minor and major significant revisions required that need the attention from the authors.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract; Results: 95% CI: 2% to 6%. Expand CI (Confidence Interval) in the first instance used.
2. Abstract: Results: Provide the estimated proportion of refractive errors and as well as for myopic astigmatism along with its 95% confidence Intervals.
3. Conclusion: Rephrase it: “The study has contributed an important knowledge in an effort to understand the magnitude of visual impairment among preschool children in the studied population. The study has showed that it is feasible to measure the distant visual acuity and stereopsis in the age group of 4 to 6 years.” Check the abstract count. If needed rephrase again with similar meaning to fit into the prescribed word count of the abstract as per the journal’s requirement.
4. Background; Second Paragraph; First Sentence: “Amblyopia affects 5% of the …..” Provide reference to this.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Methods & Materials Section:

5. Design and Sample section: Authors mention the expected prevalence rate of 20.6% and the precision is 0.04%. If the authors say that the expected prevalence of 20.6%, then modify the precision as 4% and it cannot be 0.04%.
6. Statistical analysis section: Remove the sentence “Profile of the students is presented with appropriate descriptive statistics”. Rephrase the sentence with “Descriptive statistical analysis is performed and results were reported”. Also add “Categorical data analysis was performed by using either chi-square test or Fishers exact test as appropriate”.
Results:

7. Results section: Second paragraph: 4th Line: “Visual impairment was common among boys (n = 13) compared to girls (n = 7)”. Provide proportions and along with it p-value to test if the proportion of visual impairment observed between boys and girls is statistically significant.

8. Table 4: Provide p-value to indicate which age group is having more proportion of fail or pass.

Discussion:

9. The discussion section should also focus on providing comparative analysis of this study results with that of studies conducted in South East Asia including India.

References:

10. The references should follow a uniform structure. Currently it does not follow that.

Questions:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests