Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and factors related to dental caries among pre-school children of Saddar Town, Karachi, Pakistan: A cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Respected Sir,

I really appreciate the time and effort you have invested in reviewing my article. Your input and suggestions have been much encouraging and I revised and clarified all the highlighted queries in order to make this a good quality report.

Thank You

Responses to Donald Chi:

1. The term “Life threatening” from Introduction paragraph has been omitted to avoid confusion
2. The queries related to AOR, ACI and all the associations have been elaborated in results, discussion and tables for better understanding. I hope now it would be clear. Please refer to the tables for better understanding regarding the reference categories.
3. The recommendations have been made precise reflecting the study findings. The future plans have been incorporated in the manuscript.
4. The study limitations have been incorporated as per your advice.
5. The phrases which affect the quality of English language have been revised.
Responses to Santosh Kumar Tadakamadla

Introduction:

The term “risk factor” has been removed from the manuscript and replaced with factors leading or related to dental caries.

Methodology:

1. I would like to inform you that the main purpose of the study was to just identify the factors of dental caries and not to establish any causal associations.
2. Regarding the assessment of calculus, bleeding and oral hygiene; I have mentioned in the methodology that it was assessed visually without employing any validated index since dental carried was the main objective and the above mentioned parameters were not prime objectives of the study and were taken as an additional measure.
3. The phrase “factors leading to dental caries” in the interview examination mentioned in the methodology section has been revised and replaced with “assessment of their dietary and oral hygiene habits”.

Results:

1. Tables have been revised and made precise as per guidelines.
2. Regarding consumption of juices and syrups, only the consumption habit was inquired from children i.e. if they consumed sweet juices and syrups or not? And they responded in yes or no options. The frequency was not asked as I did not expect them to answer such information in detail.

Conclusion:

1. The last sentence has been revised for better understanding of the reader.
2. The recommendations have been revised to make them precise and focused according to the study findings.