Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 12 March 2012

Reviewer: Toshiyuki Saito

Reviewer's report:

Major comments
P4 sampling methods
1) The part of sampling method is confusing. Please refine the sentences. Were eight clusters randomly picked at first stage? What are eight clusters? Authors said they selected preschools in second stage. How the 1000 children selected?

2) How many percentage of children attend kindergarten? This is very important to discuss about selection bias.

3) Both tooth paste and tooth powder are significant in table 4. Those are containing fluoride? If these information are not available from the study, instead of it, authors must describe prevalence or production rate of fluoride tooth paste in India at least.

4) The contents of tables are redundant and some parts include repetitions. For example in table 1, age groups appear twice in one table, this must be avoid. There is no explanation of the numbers in right column. What does 4.31 mean e.g. The percent of 1000 subjects is needed?

Minor comments
1) Please add page numbers

P2
2) decayed teeth (1.95) ?
3) increasing age;
   Why there is two p values
4) P7 L7 Eighty-one percent;
   “About eighty” is accurate.
5) P7 L11, 12 <0.00;
   Less than zero means minus. Check again the accurate numbers in your PC.
   p < 0.001 or p < 0.0001 e.g.
6) What is manjan?
7) P10 L10 one-third;
From the table it is two-thirds. Please check it.

Table 3 variables
What do the following mean? Please explain them at least in the text.
Tooth cleaning: Nothing used
Tooth cleaning: Using nothing (This means without toothpaste?)
Miswak
Manjan
Chalia
Flavored milk (Is this sweetend milk? If so, it is better as in the text)
Choc

Table 4
dmft + ve (Does it mean positive?)
dmft - ve (negative?)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.