Reviewer’s report

Title: Dental caries prevalence, knowledge, attitude and preventive practice on oral health among school children of Chepang communities in Nepal.

Version: 4 Date: 18 October 2012

Reviewer: Morenike Folayan

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract:
• Result: Advice the authors to remove the expression alarming from the result section. The readers should be left to make their judgement.

• Conclusion: This should be a summary of the findings related to the objectives.

Introduction
• Delete the first statement. The author should either discuss global issues and cone down to Nepal or start with Nepal and build up to global issues. The first statement currently stand as out as a misfit in the first paragraph.

• Last statement in paragraph one – please can you provide a reference for that statement?

• Line 3, paragraph 2 – can you give a reference to this statement?

• Line 4 paragraph 2 – ‘Untreated dental caries have an effect on Body Mass Index’. Can you give a reference to this statement?

• Reference 5 – its for adults. I could not see the link or the need to discuss caries in adult in this paragraph.

• Paragraph 4, page 4. Sentences 1-3 are not referenced

• Paragraph 4, page 4. Sentence 4 – those factors listed do not contribute to caries.

This section needs to be revised. There are too many unreferenced sentences. Sentences are also loose and unconnected. The English is poor. Punctuation is also poor.

Methodology
Consent cannot be obtained form school authorities. What is obtained is permission. Consent can however be obtained from parents. Who was this obtained? How was assent also obtained where there was an indication for it?

How was the sample size determined for the questionnaire administration sample and the oral examination sample?
Where the children asked to fill the questionnaires? I am not sure how a 5-6 year old child can give factual information on all the issues enumerated that need to be addressed in the questionnaire. The abstract says teachers were asked to also administer the questionnaire. This detail is mission in this methodology section. Any training for the teachers prior to their recruitment into this study as data collectors?

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'