Reviewer's report

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

Version: 6 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Morenike Folayan

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors have greatly improved the English. There is still the need to address this further. Sentences start with figures. This is wrong: you start sentences with words not figures eg 40% children reported to clean teeth for keeping them clean and 25% children to make teeth and gums strong. This kind of sentences are prevalent in the article especially in the result section.

2. Methodology section: greatly improved and reads better

3. The result section says the study population is 361 children age 6 to 14 years. The abstract reads that the 361 children are from Grade 1 to 5. The methodology says 361 children are 5 to 16 years recruited for clinical examination - It will be important to clarify the age of the children examined for the study.

4. There are six tables in the article BUT I see no reference to any of the tables in the result section.

5. There are significant findings that show up in the table that is not reported in the result section eg in Table 2- the difference in deft and DMFT (is this significant), the increasing DMFT with age etc

6. Table 3 - authors to report all percentages as one decimal space same as for Table 4-6. The labeling of all the tables should also be more explicit. They are currently inexplicit

7. Table 4-6 should also reflect age related responses. Please include age in the table 4-6

8. The questions in the table 6: I am not sure how those questions actually address attitude. They are not appropriate questions for exploring attitude. For a study like this, it would be more appropriate to use standardised measuring tools or adapt what has existed. It is more valid to adapt existing tools than creating new tools that are not validated to measure what they ought to measure

9. The study also has its limitation. It cannot be said that the schools selected are truly representative of Chepang. This was a convenient sample. It is important for the authors to identify this limitation. The sample size is also very small. Also, they sample is exclusive to public school children and excludes children from private schools. The generalisability of the study result is therefore, limited.
I have a challenge with the tools used to assess attitude. The tool does not truly measure attitude. If the authors can expunge this section from the paper, then it would be okay to handle the rest.

The authors should also please work on the English. The discussion should be limited to significant findings and what is important. The length needs to be reduced.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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