Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic status and dental healthcare use by preschool children

Version: 1 Date: 19 July 2013

Reviewer: Roopali M Sankeshwari

Reviewer's report:

Title – socioeconomic status and dental healthcare use by preschool children.

Major compulsory revisions

TITLE

It does not indicate research question. It is meaningful but does not indicate aims and objectives. It is misleading. It does not include study setting, important variables like psycho social factors and Preschool children will not be able to utilize dental health services on their own. Please consider including all these details in your title.

1. Background –

2. Last line authors have mentioned “children aged 0-5 years.” But they have considered children from 1-5 years.

Methodology –

3. It is poorly written.

4. Details of inclusion and exclusion criteria, pilot study, reliability testing of questionnaire, details of questionnaire are missing.

5. Type of sampling employed is not clear. Authors state they have used multistage instead of simple random sampling in methodology section but discussion section last but one paragraph, author’s state “our utilization of random sampling prevents selection bias”. Please clarify

6. Socio economic status- how was it assessed. Which classification was used?

Results- Alignments of tables are not proper. Legends of Table 2 and Table 3 are not clear. We suppose few details presented in table are of parents and few are of children.

7. Tooth brushing and dental caries have been mentioned in both the tables. Please segregate the details as those of parents and of children.

8. Details of d,m,ft components have not been not included, percentage of filling component, type of filling. Since Socio economic status can be a deciding factor as far as restorative / preventive therapies are concerned, authors should explain which class opted for which type of treatment.

9. Details of ECOHIS have been obtained by authors but they have failed to mention details of these.
Discretionary revisions
10. Typographical error - DMFT should have been written as dmft.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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