Author's response to reviews

Title: Oral health status and oral health knowledge, attitudes and behavior among rural children in Shaanxi, western China: a cross-sectional survey

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your response regarding our manuscript entitled “Oral health status and oral health knowledge, attitudes and behavior among rural children in Shaanxi, western China: a cross-sectional survey” (ID: 4983006991311231). Your comments have been very helpful in improving our paper. We have made revisions based on their suggestions. Point-by-point responses are summarized below.

1: Line 43 - please edit as Oral Health Status
Response: Thank you very much for your careful reading and we have edited it.

2: Abstract - can the length of the abstract be reduced to the number of words required by the BMC
Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We have edited the abstract and the number of the words is 294.

3: Line 120 - what was the Cohen? kappa statistic's score? How many examiners' were standardised?
Response: Cohen's kappa coefficient is a statistical measure of inter-rater agreement or inter-annotator agreement for qualitative (categorical) items. In present survey, randomly selected duplicate examinations of 10% of participants (56 12- to 15-year-old children) were performed to assess inter-rater reliability of two examiners with Cohen’s kappa statistic. The kappa value was 0.7 in the two examiners about dental caries and 0.8 about the gingival bleeding, which indicated a better agreement in the two examiners. In present survey, there are two examiners and they were trained before the survey.

4: Table 6 - please report both significant and non-significant associations in the regression analysis
Response: Thank you very much for your suggestion. We have added some
regression analysis results and made the table 6 include both significant and non-significant associations in the regression analysis.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Jianghong Gao