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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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 read the reviewers’ and editor’s comments carefully and have made revisions based on their suggestions. We hope that this revised manuscript will meet your approval and be acceptable for publication in its current form. Point-by-point responses are summarized below.

1. Please provide the ethics approval number after your ethics statement

Thank you very much for your thoughtful suggestions. Before we carried out this survey, the survey was approved by the ethics committee of the School of Stomatology at Xi’an Jiaotong University. The ethics committee never supplied ethics approval number for any application for ethic review, so they also did not provide ethics approval number for us. So I am very sorry that we did not have the ethics approval number, if necessary, we can provide the scanning picture of the sealed ethic examination and approval form.

2. Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian

Thank you very much for your suggestion. In this survey, first, we provided the written informed consent to subjects (the 12- to 15-year-olds and the parent of the 4- to 6-year-olds), the subjects voluntarily signed the informed consent. After they signed the informed consent, then the subjects were interviewed face-to-face by trained interviewers. We have added it in the Methods section. Thank you once again for your good suggestion.