Reviewer's report

Title: Oral Status, Oral Health knowledge, Attitudes and Behavior in rural children of Shanxi, western China

Version: 3 Date: 9 July 2014

Reviewer: Morenike Folayan

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors would need an English editor. Please do think of using Edanz, the editors recommended by the BMC. There are major grammatical corrections needed.

2. Abstract: There is no evidence in the study to suggest that the recommendation to conduct oral health education programs in the 73 rural schools in western China would address the issues raised in the conclusion piece of the abstract. I would suggest that this recommendation be deleted.

Background

1. Line 85: please can you provide a reference?

Method

1. Line 118: Three out of how many townships?

2. Line 118 - please can you move the statement on ethics approval to a different section?

3. Line 120: did you select all the schools in the townships? If not, how was the sampling done?

4. what does cluster selected mean? This was used throughout the section on sample?

5. What was the sample size for this study? How did you determine it?

6. Questionnaire - can the questionnaire be described in details. Was this an adopted, adapted or newly developed questionnaire? If it was newly developed, how was it tested for content and face validity? Where were the questionnaires administered? How were the students helped to understand the questions? Where the questions all developed in English or was there an translated version?

7. clinical examination: no reference for the WHO criteria given. What criteria was used for the assessment of the periodontal health

8. Why is there a difference in the instrument used for the adolescents and the care givers?
9. I recommend that the authors consult the STROBE on reporting for a cross sectional study to help strengthen this section. This section is poorly written

Result
The major fault with the description of the methodology of this paper coupled with the VERY poor english makes it extremely difficult for me to review this and other sections of the paper.

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

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