Reviewer's report

Title: Socio-demographic factors related to periodontal status and tooth loss of pregnant women in Mbale district, Uganda.

Version: 2 Date: 5 June 2009

Reviewer: Elifuraha Mumghamba

Reviewer's report:

Having gone through the revised manuscript, I appreciate greatly the revision work done by the author(s). However, I have the following additional constructive comments for consideration.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Table 1.
   As suggested, the author(s) did indicate the total study population in urban (n=234). However, it appears that the number of study participants in the urban area that had valid data and thus analysed and presented in all rows from row one “age” to the last row, “debris” varied from 181-224 and never became 234. There is a need to explain or give an under-note of the loss of data of 10-53.

   Likewise, the author(s) did indicate the total study population in rural (n=633). The number of study participants in the rural that had valid data and thus analysed and presented in all rows varied from 527-626 and never became 633. Need to explain as well the loss of data of 7-106 participants.

2. Study area: The issue of “sample representative” has been urged well in the covering letter BUT the argument did not feature at all in the manuscript. The last four sentences on “representativeness” and “validity” need to be included in the discussion section.

3. Previous item no. 2.2.1.2: The author(s) revisions had not shown the importance of “use of bed nets” and “ever-breast problems” in the literature review as initially suggested. The “proxy” position of the variables in question should be supported by some reference(s) to warrant the variables to remain in Table 1 and 4.

4. New Table 4: The title is too long. It may be improved to read as, “Indicators of pregnant women’s oral conditions using percentage of persons with CPI>0 and missing teeth # 1”

5. Discussion: Need to omit “Tanzania in the statement on pages 13-14, “Studies from Sri Lanka and Tanzania have presented similar results with higher proportions of women having at least one sextant with bleeding …..[18, 40] because Tanzania was not studied or mentioned in any of the specified references. OR else need to insert the “correct reference for Tanzania”.

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'