Reviewer's report

Title: An exploratory pilot study to assess self-perceived changes among social assistance recipients regarding employment prospects after receiving dental treatment

Version: 3 Date: 9 August 2015

Reviewer: Christopher Vernazza

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed my concerns sufficiently and I would now be happy to accept the paper subject to the minor revisions below:

Minor Essential Revisions

Line 38 replace “if” with “about whether”
Line 52 needs “a” before “job”
Line 133 – sentence appears to start with a sub-heading. Either make a sub-heading or better still, incorporate into sentence.
Lines 234-236 – references to different finance schemes available through the Faculty appear too self-promotional. Would be better just to say part of theme related to specific dental financial aid schemes and how helpful these had been.
Line 237 – not clear (to a UK reader anyway!) what a non-assignment practice is.
Line 287 – The first sentence of the conclusion is still rather bold considering the pilot nature of the study. Including “may” before “improve” would address this.

References – many of these, particular corporate author studies are not correct. These should all be checked.

Figure 1 is improved but still not correct as general health is still seen as the sole mediator for improved self efficacy and increased employment prospects. It would seem likely that oral health could directly influence these. I think the diagram should go Rx> Improved oral health > Psychosocial + Physical barriers addressed + General health improved (but with links from psychosocial + physical to General health too) > Improved self efficacy > Increased employment.

Table 1 should say “Educational level” before “< high school” and “Has” before “Child <= 4 years”

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'