Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dental and Medical Health Status and Oral Health Knowledge among Visually Impaired and sighted Female Schoolchildren in Riyadh: A Comparative Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewers’ Comments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Change Title: Dental and medical health status and oral health knowledge among visually impaired school going female children in Riyadh. Changed title to: Dental and Medical Health Status and Oral Health Knowledge among Visually Impaired and Sighted Female Children in Riyadh. The word “sighted” was kept as they were included in the study.</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Background is not mentioned in the abstract, directly started with aim. Added “The impact of visual impairment on oral health is not conclusive in the literature, and limited information is available on medical and dental health status of visually impaired children and little information to help direct future health plans”</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Abstract: Method: 79 and 83 how matching is done? Even it not mentioned in materials and methods section.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Abstract: Result: Heavy accumulation of plaque..... Reframe the sentence. Reframed: “The plaque accumulation was found to be more…….”</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Abstract: Conclusion: worse oral health status..... change to poor dental health status.</td>
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</table>
The maintenance of oral hygiene among visually impaired children may be quite challenging.

Introduction: Nothing mentioned about medical conditions as it is included in aim of the study

--conducted among this age group.... which age group it means?

Changed to: “among children aged 6-12 years old in Riyadh”

How sample size was determined?

All the visually impaired female children in the selected age group (6-12 years) accessible in Riyadh were included as the study group, and 83 sighted children were randomly selected to serve as the control group according to the age and school of the visually impaired group.

What type of examination form was used? What it includes, provide details

Details provided. “The examination form encompassed periodontal evaluation including oral hygiene, plaque and gingival scores. In addition to the DMFS and dmfs charting.”

“Assessing the prevalence and severity of dental caries was carried using the DMFT/ DMFS (Decayed, Missing and Filled Teeth/Surfaces) for permanent teeth, and the dmft/ dmfs (decayed, missing and filled teeth/surfaces) for primary teeth according to the WHO criteria (2013).16 Regarding the periodontal evaluation, oral hygiene index (OHI), plaque index (PI) and gingival index (GI) were obtained for all the participating children. The Oral hygiene index by James et al. (1960)17 was used to assess the oral hygiene status. Loe (1967)18 Plaque index was used to record the plaque deposition. The Gingival index described by Nanda (1990)19 was used to evaluate the gingival health condition.”

Replace the word periodontal to "gingival status"

Replaced: “Regarding the gingival status evaluation”

Author is totally confused. Why these particular indices were used? Are these are similar to the most standard indices are OHI-S (Green and Vermillion, 1964), Gingival index (loe and Silness, 1963) and Plaque (Silness and Loe 1964). If yes make changes in reference. If no provide the scoring criteria for the indices what has been mentioned in the methodology as these indices are not popular...

These indices are popular and are frequently used in studies conducted
in Saudi Arabia. They are also usually cited in other similar studies. These are the indexes used in this study and they are included in the references.

“The Oral hygiene index by James et al. (1960)17 was used to assess the oral hygiene status. Loe (1967)18 Plaque index was used to record the plaque deposition. The Gingival index described by Nanda (1990)19 was used to evaluate the gingival health condition.”


Pearson’s Chi-square test was used to know the association not the correlation. Adjusted

Comparison was made between 2 groups than why author used ANOVA? ANOVA is not applicable here. Converted to t-test

Describe the result in terms of mean and SD not in proportion and the P value is for unpaired t test (as only 2 groups were compared) not for ANOVA.

Table 2, 3
Mean and SD is used except in table 1 and 4 which reported on the medical health status and source of information.

What is meant by positive behavior? How the positive behavior was assessed?
Positive behavior means acceptance of treatment and willingness to comply and follows the dentist’s directions. Whereas negative behavior means refusal or reluctance to accept treatment, fearfulness, or any uncooperative behavior.

Reference?

Corrected

Reference?

Corrected

No need to repeat the same sentence (already mentioned in starting of paragraph).
Removed the repeated sentence. “This study showed infrequent dental visits from the visually impaired group compared to the sighted children”

“In general, both groups exhibited unmet dental treatment needs”
and lack of accessibility toward dental care facilities.” How
authors gave such statement? Nothing has been mentioned in the
result section regarding treatment.

Statement was removed

21 Reference?

Page 8; Line 34

Corrected

22 Concerning plaque removal... why author is concern for plaque
removal as it is not mentioned anywhere for plaque removal
Statement adjusted

Page 8, Line 44

23 Change et al

Page 9; Line 24

et al was changed

24 Bekiroglu et al Cross check for spelling with the reference

Page 9; Line 41

Name was corrected: “Bekiroglua”

25 How authors have assessed the positive behavior?

Page 9; Line 58

The Frankl Scale (1962)20 was used to assess the children’s behavior,
in which the child’s reaction to dental treatment was rated on a four-
point scale ranging from definitely negative to definitely positive.

Page 10; Line 26

Replace Poorer with Poor

Done

26

Change the references to Vancouver style of citation. Many references
not written in scientific convention??

Page 12

Adjusted

27 Reframe the title of Table 2: Comparison of mean scores of oral
hygiene, plaque and gingival status among visually impaired and
sighted children

Page 16

Reframed

28 Reframe the entire Table 2 as one has to apply t test not ANOVA.
Again no need to mention the proportions

Page 16

Reframed

29 Reframe the title of Table 3: Comparison of caries status among
visually impaired and sighted children

Page 16

Reframed

30 Table 3: ANOVA can’t be applied

Page 16

Reframed

31 Figure 1: Axis title not mentioned

Page 18

Adjusted
Dear Editor,

The manuscript needs lots of corrections

1. lots of grammatical mistakes in the manuscript,

   - The whole manuscript was edited for English language through

2. study design in not correct

   - Corrected

3. sampling method is not correct

   - Corrected

4. kindly explain how were the sample size achieved

   - Explained

5. how were the schools selected?

   - School selection explained

6. how were the children selected?

   - The selection of children was explained

7. no mention of the inclusion and exclusion criteria
- All the accessible visually impaired female children in the selected age group (n=79) in Riyadh were included in the study

8. what was the kappa value after intra examiner reliability
- It is mentioned

8. discussion is poorly written
- The discussion was adjusted

9. conclusion should conclude your result
- Conclusion was adjusted

10. after ANOVA test turkeys test should have been applied as the result is significant
- It was converted to t-test

If the author makes the necessary corrections it can be accepted.

The final shall be yours sir, these are just my recommendations