Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dental Caries Status of Lisu Preschool Children in Yunnan Province, China: A Cross-Sectional Study

Authors:

Shinan Zhang (snzhang2000@163.com)
Yuexiao Li (ly_9702@qq.com)
Juan Liu (2351533591@qq.com)
Weiqi Wang (0871wwq@sina.com)
Leticia Ito (letito@connect.hku.hk)
Samamtha Kar Yan Li (Lskyli@hku.hk)
Yanhong Li (yanhongli_kmu@126.com)

Version: 1 Date: 27 Nov 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Maria Grazia Cagetti (Reviewer 1)

The paper entitled "Dental Caries Status of Lisu Preschool Children in Yunnan Province, China: A Cross-Sectional Study" is an interesting, well written and methodologically sound study. English is acceptable even if a few sentences require attention.

Re: Thank you for your invaluable suggestions. This paper was proofread by a professional English editing agency as suggested (https://www.papercheck.com).

In fact, I think that the discussion would improve if focused on the results of the paper 1) Decayed deciduous teeth are not treated. It would be useful to know which dental facilities are present on the territory and if they are to be paid by the individual or provided free of charge.

Re: Amended as suggested, Line 248-257, marked in blue.

In the questionnaire the authors refer to Dental service but no specification is provided in the text.

Re: The information of dental service was discussed in line 246-257, marked in red and blue.
Moreover, these caries figures (untreated deciduous teeth) are not only found in least developed countries. In fact, even the data reported by the National Pathfinder Survey (Caries Res 2009; 43: 155-162) on Italian 4-year-old children show that few deciduous teeth are treated in high-income countries also. It would be interesting to briefly examine this comparison.

Re: Amended as suggested, Line 248-257, marked in blue.

2) Use of fluoride. The data show that only 20% of the sample uses a fluoride toothpaste and this could be the main reason of the high prevalence of caries recorded in the examined population. It would be interesting to know if the use of fluoride toothpaste is not widespread because it is expensive or because it is not easy to find, as well as reported, because the population does not know its benefits.

Re: The reasons were explained in 299-302, marked in blue.

3) The socio-economic aspect. It would have been interesting to evaluate if there is an association between caries and children not living with their parents. In fact, children taken in care by others than parent might not receive adequate attention in terms of hygiene, even if their income is relatively high.

Re: Agree, but unfortunately, the information on caregivers’ types was not collected in this study, thus statistical analysis cannot be done. This was discussed on line 281-291, marked in blue.

Some minor revisions

Background line 83. 1196 RMB / per year is it correct? China's latest poverty line of 2,300 yuan ($ 360) per year is reported. Did the authors refer to a monthly income?

Re: It was the national poverty line set in 2009 (1196 RMB, equal to around $170 per capita per year). No other updated economic status of Lisu people was found, so we still used the information reported in reference #11 published in 2014, line 83-85, marked in red.

In fact, the authors reported (in table 2) as the lowest income group <500 RMB (??) monthly.

Re: Yes, 16% of Lisu people belonged to lowest income group < 500RMB monthly in our study. The currency sign was added in Table 2-4, marked in red.

line 96. reference 5 is a review and not an epidemiological survey, as it seems when reading the text. Methods line 104 Again, reference 5 is incorrectly used.
Re: Amended as suggested, and reference #16 was added, line 99 and 105-106, marked in red.

Results line 179-180 "The distribution of the dmft score was positively skewed, with a skewness of 0.599 (Fig. 1)" It is not clear how the authors obtained the reported skewness value, since it is not reported in fig.1.

Re: The skewness value was deleted, line 183, marked in red.

Discussion line 234. Please provide a reference to justify the sentence "Nevertheless, the prevalence of dental caries among the children from the Dai and Bulang preschool children in Yunnan". References Some references are not reported in the style required by the journal.

Re: References #21 and #22 were added, line 238-240, marked in red.

Kitty Jiuyi Chen (Reviewer 2)

Thank you very much for inviting me to review this manuscript. This manuscript is generally well-prepared. However, there are some issues needed to be addressed before it can be published. My suggestions are as follows:

1. Delete 'and work' in Ln 48;

   Re: Deleted as suggested, line 51-53, marked in red.

2. Convert RMB into USD in Ln 83 so that we can compare with the situation of other parts of world

   Re: Done, line 84, marked in red.

3. Provide the information of ratio of population distribution (8:1) in the method (multistage sampling method).

   Re: Amended as suggested, line 115-116, marked in red.

4. Add 'family monthly income' in Ln 129.

   Re: Done, line 130, marked in red.
5. Revise the sentence in Ln 143. "The VPI not only record the status of both buccal and palatal surfaces."

Re: Amended. Because only the buccal or labial surfaces of the index teeth were recorded in this study, and its limitations were discussed, line 145-147 and line 231-233.

6. Revise the sentence in Ln 173. The figure of boys is unclear. Did the boys consist 55% of the study population? Or 55% of the kids with dental caries were boys?

Re: Amended as suggested. Boys accounted for 55% of the study population, line 176-177, marked in red.

7. Add discussion on the limitations in this study?

Re: Done, line 226-233, 276-291, marked in blue and red.