

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51844

Date: 27-05-2025

Title: PREVALENCE OF DENTAL CARIES AND ITS CORRELATES AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN LUFWANYAMA DISTRICT, ZAMBIA

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....YES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

| Rating | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality | | √ | | |
| Techn. Quality | | √ | | |
| Clarity | | √ | | |
| Significance | | | √ | |

Reviewer's Name: Dr Aamina

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

1. Relevance and Significance:

The study addresses a highly relevant public health issue—dental caries—among primary school pupils in a specific geographical location where such data was previously unavailable. This adds significant value to local health planning and policy formulation.

2. Clarity and Focus:

The abstract clearly outlines the background and rationale for the study, focusing on the importance of understanding prevalence to inform preventive strategies. The research objective is clearly stated.

3. Methodology:

The methodology is well described as a cross-sectional descriptive study with a sizable sample of 1,228 pupils. The use of both questionnaires and clinical dental examinations strengthens the reliability of the findings. The use of Stata/MP 16 for data analysis and the reporting of odds ratios is appropriate and clearly communicated.

4. Results Presentation:

The results are presented with relevant statistical data, including prevalence rates and adjusted odds ratios (AOR) with confidence intervals. The findings related to gender, dietary habits at home and school, and tooth brushing frequency are clearly articulated and backed by quantitative evidence.

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5. Scientific Rigor:

The study demonstrates scientific rigor through the use of a registered dentist for examinations and standard statistical methods for analysis. Associations between various risk factors and dental caries are statistically substantiated.

6. Writing Quality:

The writing is concise, and the language used is generally clear and accessible. Key terms and figures are appropriately included for a clear understanding of the study outcomes.

7. Overall Impression:

The abstract provides a succinct and informative overview of a well-structured study on dental caries in an under-researched population. The findings are relevant for public health policy and preventive dental care initiatives in Zambia and similar contexts.