



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57828

Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Dental Caries Among Two WHO Index Age Groups in Jaipur: A Cross-Sectional Study

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-198

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript evaluates the prevalence of dental caries among two WHO index age groups (12 years and 65–74 years) in Jaipur and examines associated demographic and behavioral factors. The topic is relevant to public health dentistry, and the inclusion of both adolescent and elderly populations provides useful epidemiological information. The study uses standard WHO criteria and DMFT index assessment. However, there are several methodological, statistical, and reporting issues that need clarification before publication.

Major Comments

1. The 12-year-old participants were selected from schools, whereas elderly participants were recruited from a dental college hospital. Hospital-based elderly participants may not represent the general elderly population and may have a higher burden of dental disease. This limitation should be clearly acknowledged.
2. The title emphasizes "determinants" of dental caries, but the analysis is largely descriptive. No multivariable analysis was performed to identify independent predictors of caries. Therefore, conclusions regarding determinants are not sufficiently supported.
3. The manuscript reports use of ANOVA, t-tests, and Pearson correlation, but the results section presents very limited statistical findings. The authors should explain why specific tests were chosen and provide more detailed statistical outputs.

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4. Table 5 reports DMFT values for the elderly age group that appear almost identical to those reported for 12-year-olds. Given that elderly participants showed much higher caries prevalence, these values should be rechecked for possible errors.
5. The manuscript states that oral hygiene practices, fluoride awareness, sugary beverage consumption, and dental visitation patterns influenced caries prevalence. However, supporting data and statistical associations are not presented in the results section.
6. The discussion occasionally implies causal relationships between behaviors and caries occurrence. These statements should be interpreted more cautiously.

Minor Comments

1. The manuscript requires language editing to improve grammar and readability.
2. Tables should be renumbered correctly. There are two tables labeled as Table 4.
3. Some results are repeated in both text and tables and could be condensed.
4. The gender distribution is highly unequal (72% males vs 28% females). The authors should discuss whether this imbalance could influence findings.
5. More information regarding sample size calculation should be included.
6. Ethical approval number and institutional ethics committee details should be clearly reported if not already included elsewhere in the manuscript.
7. The discussion could include more comparisons with recent Indian studies from similar settings.