



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Ophthalmology Research: An International Journal
Manuscript Number:	Ms_OR_37212
Title of the Manuscript:	Prevalence of trachoma eye infection and factors associated with it among Grades 1-8 school children in Harari Region, Eastern Ethiopia
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	-The manuscript title should be revised as follows; Prevalence and factors associated with trachoma among primary school children in Harari Region, Eastern Ethiopia -Give a clear justification why you chose a p-value of ≤ 0.2 in the bi-variate analysis as opposed to the conventional p-value of 0.05. This could have erroneously included confounding variables in the subsequent multi-variate analysis. -What recommendations emanate from your study findings? This seems to miss in your conclusion and recommendations section. -Ensure consistent use of the referencing style required. Check references as some have author names incorrectly capitalized.	*The title is modified as commented by reviewers as follow: Prevalence and factors associated with trachoma among primary school children in Harari Region, Eastern Ethiopia. * Justification for p-value of 0.2: We were commented to include 0.2 in order to not miss some borderline important variables but during data analysis for both binary and multiple logistic regressions, we have only used P- value of 0.05. So, we are ready to correct in the manuscript. *Recommendations: Incorporated *Referencing: corrected
Minor REVISION comments	-Rewrite the highlighted sentences in order to accurately convey the intended meaning; "Home environments were asked for how waste disposal had been managed and source of water for drinking and other purposes." "It is also lower than a 5.2% China" (...are you referring to a study done in China) "This finding is also lower than that of 5% prevalence of active trachoma eye infection in school children, Brazil and Australia" (...studies in Brazil and Australia) -Clearly state and justify the sampling techniques used i.e. stratified sampling, simple random sampling etc. -Provide the inter-observer agreement ratio reached following questionnaire piloting to show reliability of the data collection tool -Justify use of an older version of SPSS given availability of more recent versions of the software.	*All the highlighted sections are corrected. *Sampling techniques are justified. * Provide the inter-observer agreement ratio reached: Trained data collectors and ophthalmologist with experience on trachoma assessment have examined the upper tarsal conjunctiva for clinical signs of trachoma according to simplified WHO criteria [15]. The presence or absence of TF and TI was documented. The inter-observer agreement between the ophthalmologist and data collectors was good, with weighted Kappa value of 0.64 (95% CI 0.57–0.79) for TF and 0.57 (95% CI 0.47-0.62) for TI. *SPSS of V-16 usage: We used SPSS V-16 just for prior familiarity with the software. Sampling technique <pre>graph TD; A[Harari region 84 primary schools] --> B[62 Government Schools]; A --> C[17 private schools]; A --> D[5 Inside religion]; B --> E[23 Urban schools]; B --> F[39 Rural schools]; E --> G[Ras Mekonen primary school]; F --> H[Deker primary school]; C --> I[17 Urban schools]; C --> J[No Rural schools]; I --> K[SOS]; D --> L[5 Urban]; L --> M[Mekane Sillasie Primary school]</pre> In 2015/16 academic year, there were 84 primary level schools (grade 1-8) in Harari region. From these, 62 were government schools (39 rural, 23 urban) while 17 were privately owned and 5 were inside religious organizations (1 in



SDI Review Form 1.6

		mosque and 4 inside church) which were non-governmental charity schools. All private schools were located in urban areas. In these 84 schools, there were 41,336 students (35,733 were in government schools while 5,603 in private/NGO schools). From each category, one school was selected randomly by lottery method and all students in the school were subjected to the study. Thus, the following 4 schools were selected randomly by lottery method. 1. Deker primary school: a total of 630students (365 male, 265females) 2. Ras Mekonin primary school: a total of 1686 students (816 male, 870 females) 3. SOS primary school: a total of 613 students (321male, 292females) 4. Mekane Silassie primary school: a total of 268 students (144 male, 124females)
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	-The study addresses an important knowledge gap there being no previous prevalence studies of trachoma among school children in Harari region. -References cited are up-to-date	