Reviewer 2

1. This was a well planned and significant study. It is well written and provides pertinent background information.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer’s positive assessment of our methods and results from this study and commit to making the revisions needed for publication.

2. It would also be interesting to know whether any of the interventions you mentioned, such as better advertisement, be implemented?

Response: We presented our results to multiple dental and maternal-child health organizations in Nepal to encourage expansion of existing health interventions and to address the study’s findings. Our recommendations included: introducing oral health interventions earlier to younger children by integrating oral health into maternal-child health services, using fluoride varnish as an early childhood caries preventive intervention, and providing greater oral health and nutrition education to mothers and teachers. We specifically promoted breastfeeding, avoiding sugary beverages in the baby bottle, ending baby bottle use after the first year, brushing children’s teeth as soon as they erupt, continuing to help children brush twice a day (at home and in school) until age 6, and seeking early preventive and curative dental care. Several local Nepali organizations have chosen to implement some of the recommendations, and we look forward to future publications describing these.

3. I would have liked to see stronger data about "stunting, and its implication for the country of Nepal. Stunting, in relationship to a healthy work force and gross national product, might be a major incentive for the government to intervene. Please consider adding data and discuss regarding stunting.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer’s acknowledgement of the grave impacts of stunting malnutrition, and we recognize that there is a large body of quality research on the associations among child development, a healthy workforce, and gross national product. To address the reviewer’s feedback and to strengthen our discussion, we have added to the Discussion section: “Chronic malnutrition in early childhood is strongly associated with poorer cognitive and educational outcomes throughout childhood, lower wages and productivity in adulthood, and lower gross national product on a national level [4].

4. I approve your article and would like to see more study's of this magnitude.

Response: We thank the reviewer.

Thank you again very much for your review and reconsideration of our revised manuscript. We look forward to hearing your decision on acceptance.

Sincerely,

Chloe Tsang