**Drinking Water
Engineering and Science
Discussions**

Interactive comment on "Fluoride in the drinking water of Pakistan and the possible risk of crippling fluorosis" *by* M. A. Tahir and H. Rasheed

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The paper compiles extensive data about distribution of fluorides in water sources of Pakistan and can serve as a good template for identifying the hot spots that require urgent attention for taking mitigation measures. Publication of such a paper may trigger interest among certain researchers working on different aspects of fluorosis mitigation and hence recommended for inclusion. The projections for susceptibility of these areas to different forms of fluorosis manifestations are purely derived on theoretical basis. Following are some comments that can help design any future study by the authors in an improved manner: 1. SPANDS method is not very accurate and can have many interfering parameters, hence ideally Ion Meter with fluoride ion selective electrode should be used for such a vast study. 2. Dietary sources may also constitute

major components of fluoride intake besides water, which have been totally neglected. 3. For assessing prevalence of fluorosis, other dietary parameters like calcium and vitamin C intake are of equal importance as they have a preventive role for fluorosis. 4. The projections on fluorosis propensities should consider the above components comprehensively for establishing cause-effect linkages and should be verified in the field. With primary studies in select locations

If authors can further bolster the paper with additional available data on above lines, it would be welcome. Otherwise, the paper may be accepted in the present form.

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