

## ***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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Reply to Comments by Referee #1: Gupta, Akhilendra B.

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. Due to financial limitations, SPADN method was not available in the lab, however now the Ion Selective Method is available and will be used for Fluoride testing. As the laboratory is an ISO-17025 Accredited laboratory and participates in international proficiency testing trials and inter-laboratory comparison, thus, there is no issue of generating inaccurate findings. Laboratory has well established quality control plan for analytical results. The second phase of the project includes collection of field observations in terms of prevailing health problems and collection of food samples to

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fulfill the gaps left in phase-I. Presently all the findings available with author have been presented in this paper.

Reply to Comments by Anonymous Referee #2

It was in fact a first study at wide scale of monitoring in 16 cities to identify the existence of excessive Fluoride levels in drinking water sources, thus the frequency of monitoring was once in the project life which was of one year. The second phase of the project will include the collection of health related information as the first phase just focused on water quality monitoring for identification of Fluoride Contaminated sources.

Final Response:

There is no revision of manuscript required as whatever information, authors have collected are presented in the manuscript and observations/suggestions given by referee will be included in the Phase-II of the programme.

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