



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	<u>Ophthalmology Research: An international Journal</u>
Manuscript Number:	2013_OR_5543
Title of the Manuscript:	Utilization of eye care services among Ghanaian elderly population: Evidence from a peri-urban community in Ghana
Type of the Article	Original Research

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

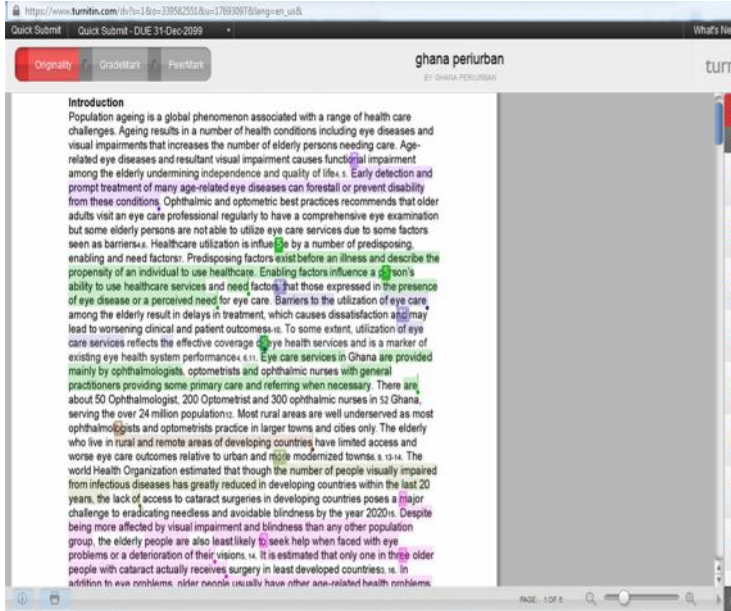
(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 7 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>Originality report:</p> <p>A quick check with TURNITIN uncovered many sentences in the INTRODUCTION and DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION that have similarity with published texts.</p> <p>The authors should consider rephrasing these sentences.</p> <p>Below is a print-screen of the TURNITIN report:</p> 	<p>The reviewer's turnitin report revealed 82% originally even though the article is a highly reference one. Authors have however rephrased parts of the introduction and discussion as suggested</p>



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	<p>Materials and Methods This study was reviewed by the IRB of University of Cape Cosat. The authors should provide evidence of Ethical approval (project ID/ reference number).</p> <p>When was the study conducted?</p> <p>Inclusion and exclusion criteria should be mentioned in detail.</p> <p>What was the method of sampling?</p> <p>What were the precautions taken to minimize bias?</p> <p>Line 77-78: Sample size calculation should be provided.</p>	<p>The study was part of an MPhil research undertaken at the department of population and health, university of cape. As it is with the practice in the university, the department responsible reviewed and approved the ethics involved on behalf of the university IRB. Infact, the second and third authors are professors in the department. If it is editorial decision for authors to produce such letters, authors will oblige.</p> <p>Issues related to the methods have been addressed</p> <p>The study population size, inclusion criteria and number involved in the study were clearly stated in the methodology and authors felt no need to include that in the manuscript. This has however been amended to reflect reviewers comments</p>
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	<p>Line 80: Semi-structured questionnaires were used.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did the researchers use semi-structured questionnaires, which is more suitable for social sciences? 2. Were the questions asked in English, Akan, Ewe or any other languages? 3. Was there any formal /validated back-to-back translation performed between languages? <p>Line 85: Who performed the ophthalmic examinations?</p> <p>Line 86 : The researchers should determine the best corrected visual acuity (BCVA).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structured or semi-structured can be used in such studies depending in the variables being studies. In this case, authors used the former to allow respondents give corrects answers for specific variables which was appropriately coded afterwards 2. The questionnaires and informed consent forms were translated into Fanti the local dialect. Apart be experienced in such studies, those who administered the questionnaires were trained. This has been clarified in the manuscript. <p>The eye screening was performed but experienced Doctors of Optometrist. A validation procedure was also done with an Ophthalmologist. This has been highlighted in the manuscript.</p> <p>Visual impairment could either be determined with presenting visual acuity (PVA) with or without correction or best corrected visual acuity. Either is accepted. In this study, authors wanted to show perception of vision by respondents and vision as during measured on examination. Using BCVA will lead to underestimation of the problem.</p>
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	<p>Line 89: Direct ophthalmoscopy is not sufficient for the examination of the retina especially in the presence of cataract. The researchers should use the Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope (BIO).</p> <p>Line 103: In data analysis, did the researchers analyze the PVA with spectacles or PVA without spectacles?</p> <p>Line 128: “Respondents were asked to grade their perception about well they can see” The grading system should be explained in Materials and Methods</p> <p>The researchers should the purpose of looking into matching PVA against self-evaluation by respondents(table 4) and the difference between self evaluation and identified eye problems that needed treatment (table 6)</p> <p>There are many LIMITATIONS in this study. The researchers should identify these limitations and discuss accordingly in this manuscript.</p>	<p>Internal examination was done with direct ophthalmoscopy under dilation which was adequate and did not affect the results. The use of equipment depends on equipment availability and setting of the study. In a community based study such as this one, the alternative use of equipment can be expressed as a limitation.</p> <p>PVA is correctly recorded as the patients presented, with or without spectacles. This was clearly stated in the methods, but has now also been highlighted in the analysis section.</p> <p>Authors agree with reviewer, this has been clarified</p> <p>This was done to draw comparison between eye status as perceived by the respondents and that as determined. This has been inferred in the discussion.</p> <p>This was covered in the conclusion part of the discussion. However, the manuscript has been amended and highlighted to reflect this suggestion.</p>
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	<p>The researchers should also discuss the generalizability of the study.</p> <p>Line 247: Authors disclose no funding sources.</p> <p>This study involved 170 participants, and at least 3 trained social workers, 5 experience doctors of optometrists and ophthalmologists in the hospital.</p> <p>I believe some sort of funding was involved.</p>	<p>The generality or otherwise of it was covered in the discussion.</p> <p>Authors have no funding disclosures to make. The project was funded by researchers</p>
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	<p>Acknowledgement: The researchers should acknowledge those who helped in this study.</p>	<p>The suggestion have been adhered to</p>
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	<p>The authors should consider rephrasing some of the sentences in INTRODUCTION and DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION</p>	<p>Authors have rephrased some parts to accommodated this suggestion</p>