Review of: "Carriage of oropharyngeal bacteria among children in a vulnerable rural population living in a tropical region in São Paulo, Brazil"

Ibrahim A. Taher[1]

1 Aljouf University

Overall Assessment: The manuscript is well-written and presents valuable information; however, there are some notable concerns that need to be addressed. The issues raised pertain to the sample size, methodology, and the relevance of certain graphs and data.

1. **Sample Size Calculation:** The manuscript lacks clarity regarding the rationale behind the chosen sample size. The comment on the small sample size raises questions about the generalizability of the findings. It is crucial to provide a clear justification for the selected sample size or consider expanding the sample to enhance the robustness of the study.

2. **Methodology - PCR and Culture Techniques:** The concerns regarding the differences between PCR and culture techniques and the potential impact on results are valid. It is recommended to elaborate on the methodology used for pathogen isolation. Consider discussing whether selective culture techniques were employed to minimize discrepancies between PCR and culture results. I believe that the low isolation rate of the said bacteria could have been minimized if selective culturing techniques were employed.

3. **Relevance of Graphs and Data:** The comment regarding the questionable value of some graphs and data related to different regions requires attention. It is important to assess the significance of each graph and dataset in relation to the study objectives. Consider revising or omitting any graphs or data that do not contribute substantially to the overall message of the manuscript.

Overall, the manuscript has strong potential, but addressing these concerns will significantly improve its scientific rigor and clarity. The revisions should include a more detailed explanation of the sample size determination, clarification of the methodology, and a critical evaluation of the relevance of each graph and dataset.