

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51649

Date: 17-05-2025

**Title: Barriers to Accessing Bank Loans: An Analysis of Causes and Impacts on Low-Income Citizen in Tanzania**

### Recommendation:

**Accept as it is.....YES.....**

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity		√		
Significance		√		

**Reviewer's Name:** Mr Bilal Mir

**Reviewer's Decision about Paper:** **Recommended for Publication.**

**Comments** (*Use additional pages, if required*)

### **Reviewer's Comment / Report**

#### **General Overview:**

The study presents a well-structured and pertinent investigation into the challenges faced by low-income Tanzanians in accessing bank loans. The subject matter is of substantial socio-economic relevance, especially in the context of developing economies where financial inclusion remains a critical developmental goal. The integration of both qualitative and quantitative data strengthens the study's analytical depth and provides a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

#### **Abstract:**

The abstract clearly summarizes the research objective, methodology, key findings, limitations, practical implications, and broader significance. It captures the essence of the study by outlining the major barriers identified—such as collateral requirements, high interest rates, financial illiteracy, and mistrust of banking institutions—and connects these findings to the larger issue of financial exclusion. The inclusion of policy recommendations and the emphasis on social implications adds depth to the abstract.

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### Introduction:

The introduction sets the context effectively by highlighting the importance of financial access for socio-economic development. It situates the issue within the Tanzanian setting and articulates the central concern of loan inaccessibility for low-income individuals. The reference to existing literature, such as the works by Munishi et al. (2021) and Mangasini (2007), demonstrates a strong engagement with prior scholarship and strengthens the academic grounding of the study. The challenges are framed as both systemic and individual, providing a holistic view of the problem.

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### Methodology:

Although detailed methodology sections are not included in this excerpt, the mention of a mixed-methods approach, involving surveys and interviews, suggests a balanced and rigorous research design. The sample size of 200 individuals provides a meaningful quantitative base, while the qualitative input from bank officials adds institutional insight. This approach allows for triangulation of data, enhancing the reliability and validity of the findings.

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### Findings and Analysis:

The study identifies key barriers to loan access in a manner that is both clear and substantiated. The findings align well with the issues highlighted in the literature and reflect real-world socio-economic dynamics. The exploration of financial literacy and institutional trust as central themes adds nuance to the discussion. The linkage between financial exclusion and broader issues of poverty and inequality is articulated with clarity and relevance.

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### Limitations and Implications:

The acknowledgement of urban bias in the sample indicates critical self-reflection on the study's scope. The practical implications are well articulated, pointing toward policy revision and innovative banking practices such as alternative credit scoring. The social dimension of the findings—highlighting economic empowerment and inequality reduction—is appropriately emphasized, reinforcing the study's significance.

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### Contribution to Knowledge:

This research offers a valuable addition to the discourse on financial inclusion in Africa. It sheds light on systemic barriers from both the user and provider perspectives, and its findings are likely to be beneficial for policymakers, financial institutions, and development practitioners. The Tanzanian context provides a specific case study that may have wider applicability across similar socio-economic settings.

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### Final Remarks:

The study demonstrates clarity of purpose, methodological soundness, and relevance to pressing

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developmental concerns. It balances empirical rigor with practical insight and engages thoughtfully with the existing literature. The work stands as a meaningful contribution to the understanding of financial exclusion and potential pathways to greater inclusivity within the Tanzanian banking sector.