

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 51982

Date: 28/05/2025

Title: "Perceptions of Occupational Therapy Practice in Saudi Schools"

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is .....
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision .....
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 29/05/2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The research offers valuable insights into the perceptions and challenges faced by occupational therapists working within Saudi Arabian schools. It emphasizes the critical role OT can play in enhancing student development but also highlights systemic barriers like resource limitations, lack of awareness, and administrative hurdles. Addressing these issues through targeted awareness campaigns, policy reforms, and community engagement could significantly enhance OT service delivery and student outcomes in the educational system. Future studies incorporating classroom-based observations and diverse stakeholder perspectives are recommended to deepen understanding and support comprehensive improvements.

## Reviewer's Comment / Report

### Strengths

- Comprehensive Scope:** The study thoroughly examines the perceptions of occupational therapy (OT) in Saudi Arabian schools, addressing benefits, challenges, and perceptions of various stakeholders. This holistic approach provides a well-rounded understanding of the current landscape.
- Large Sample Size and Methodology:** Involving 272 licensed occupational therapists, the study employs both quantitative (closed-ended questions) and qualitative (open-ended responses) data collection methods. The mixed-method approach enhances the depth and reliability of findings.
- Identification of Key Barriers and Facilitators:** The research effectively pinpoints critical challenges such as limited awareness, resource constraints, and administrative obstacles, alongside potential opportunities like increased interdisciplinary collaboration and awareness campaigns.
- Practical Recommendations:** The study provides actionable suggestions for improving OT services, including awareness programs, resource allocation, policy reforms, and enhanced collaboration among school staff.

### Weaknesses

- Limited Observation and Contextual Data:** The research relies solely on self-reported data from therapists without direct classroom or school observations, which might limit the understanding of practical barriers and real-time service delivery challenges.
- Potential Sampling Bias:** Participants were selected via convenience sampling, which might not fully represent all occupational therapists in Saudi Arabia, possibly affecting the generalizability of the findings.
- Lack of Student and Teacher Perspectives:** The study predominantly captures therapists' viewpoints without integrating perceptions from teachers, students, or parents, which could provide a more complete picture of the OT's impact and challenges.

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4. **Focus on Perceptions Over Outcomes:** While perceptions are crucial, the study does not provide in-depth data on actual student outcomes or the long-term effectiveness of OT interventions in the context assessed.