

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51982

Date: 30-05-2025

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

### 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:** Dr Aamina

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

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

### Reviewer's Comment / Report

#### Abstract and Objectives:

The abstract effectively summarizes the study's goals, methodology, key findings, and conclusions. It clearly states the intent to explore occupational therapists' perceptions regarding their roles, challenges, and impact in Saudi school settings, which is a pertinent and timely topic.

#### Relevance and Contribution:

The study addresses a significant gap in understanding occupational therapy practices within educational settings in Saudi Arabia. It contributes valuable insights into the effectiveness of OT interventions and highlights systemic issues such as awareness and resource challenges. This

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makes it relevant for both academic audiences and practitioners aiming to improve school-based OT services.

### **Methodology:**

The use of a descriptive cross-sectional design with a sizable sample (n=272) enhances the robustness of the study. Employing both quantitative (closed-ended questions) and qualitative (open-ended questions) data collection methods enriches the depth of findings. The analysis using JMP software alongside thematic analysis is appropriate for the data types.

### **Findings:**

Results are well articulated, showing the positive impact of OT on academic, social-emotional, and physical-functional domains. The identification of major barriers—including lack of awareness, resource constraints, and administrative issues—provides a comprehensive picture of the current landscape. The discussion of misconceptions surrounding OT roles adds an important dimension to understanding professional challenges.

### **Introduction and Context:**

The introduction contextualizes occupational therapy well, defining core concepts and establishing the rationale for the study within the Saudi Arabian educational system. The explanation of OT's goals and its under-recognition in schools aligns with the research objectives.

### **Writing and Presentation:**

The manuscript is clearly written, with appropriate academic tone and terminology. It is logically structured, facilitating reader comprehension of complex issues regarding OT in educational settings.

### **Scientific Rigor:**

The research design, sampling, data collection, and analytical methods demonstrate scientific rigor and are well suited to answer the research questions. The inclusion of both numerical and thematic data strengthens the validity of conclusions.

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### **Summary:**

This study provides meaningful insights into the perceptions and realities of occupational therapy practice in Saudi schools. It highlights both the beneficial outcomes of OT interventions for students and the challenges faced by therapists. The findings offer a foundation for policy discussions and future efforts to enhance OT services within educational environments in Saudi Arabia.

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