

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No: **IJAR 54273**

Date: 10/10/2025

Title: *Cross-Curricular Approaches and the Development of Core Skills among First-Year University Students in Maputo, Mozambique*

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. Touseef Malik**

Date: 11/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript presents a valuable contribution to higher education reform research by examining the relationship between cross-curricular approaches and the development of core skills in Mozambican universities. The mixed-method design adds methodological robustness, and the integration of both statistical and qualitative data strengthens validity. The discussion is comprehensive, grounded in relevant international literature, and highlights structural challenges within the national education system. Minor revisions are required to streamline the discussion, update select references, and ensure formatting consistency.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths

1. **Relevance:** Focuses on higher education reform and competency-based learning, addressing a pressing global concern.
2. **Methodological Strength:** Combines quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative (NVivo) analyses effectively.
3. **Analytical Rigor:** Establishes a clear correlation between cross-curricular integration and competency outcomes.
4. **Theoretical Depth:** References strong frameworks, including Beane (1997), Morin (2000), and Paraskeva (2014).
5. **Language and Presentation:** Professional tone and logically structured.

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Weaknesses

1. **Discussion (4.3–4.5):** Needs condensation to improve readability.
2. **Formatting:** Reference list and in-text citations should be aligned with APA 7 guidelines.
3. **Policy Application:** More detail could be added on practical implementation for universities.
4. **Limitations Section:** Should explicitly outline methodological constraints.
5. **Reference Updates:** Add more recent (post-2020) sources on higher education reform.