

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54349

Date: 17-10-2025

Title: BREAST CANCER RISK FACTORS IN COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC INDICES (SDIS) AND CULTURE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW.

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. Amina

Reviewer's Comment for Publication

The manuscript titled *"Breast Cancer Risk Factors in Countries with Different Sociodemographic Indices (SDIs) and Culture: A Systematic Review"* provides an insightful comparative analysis of breast cancer risk factors across three culturally and socioeconomically distinct countries — the USA, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. The paper is timely, addressing an important global health concern through the lens of sociodemographic and cultural determinants.

The **abstract** is concise and effectively summarizes the study's objectives, methodology, and findings. It identifies both universal and context-specific risk factors, emphasizing lifestyle, genetic, and reproductive determinants. However, the abstract could benefit from slight restructuring for improved clarity — particularly in distinguishing between modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors.

The **introduction** provides a comprehensive background, clearly contextualizing breast cancer prevalence and linking it to SDI variations and cultural influences. The review successfully frames its rationale and significance. Some sentences could be made more concise to enhance

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readability and avoid repetition (e.g., duplicated mentions of “weak cancer surveillance” and “reliance on biomass fuels” in Pakistan).

The **methodology** adheres to PRISMA guidelines and employs a structured approach, including inclusion/exclusion criteria, database selection, and inter-rater reliability. Registration in INPLASY (with DOI) demonstrates good research transparency. However, minor improvements are suggested — for example, elaborating on the **search string syntax** and **time frame justification**, and clarifying how grey literature was quality-assessed.

The **results** are well-organized and provide clear differentiation between the three countries. The inclusion of tables summarizing genetic, lifestyle, dietary, and reproductive risk factors enhances data accessibility. The synthesis effectively highlights regional differences — such as alcohol consumption relevance in the USA versus absence in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and unique dietary or hormonal factors in the latter regions. Some long tables could be summarized or condensed to improve flow.

The **discussion and analysis** are comprehensive and critical. The manuscript draws meaningful contrasts between SDI-driven risk factors and those influenced by cultural norms. The linkage between lifestyle modernization and breast cancer prevalence in LMICs is particularly valuable. However, the narrative could be strengthened by explicitly integrating a **thematic synthesis** (e.g., grouping genetic vs. environmental factors) to reduce redundancy and increase analytical depth.

The **quality assessment** section using AMSTAR 2 is a strong addition, reflecting methodological rigor. The authors' acknowledgment of low evidence quality in certain included studies enhances the credibility of their synthesis.

The **language** is scholarly but could benefit from **minor editing** for grammar, punctuation, and sentence flow. Certain sections (especially long result paragraphs) would be clearer with subheadings or concise bullet summaries.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

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Overall Evaluation:

This is a **scientifically relevant and well-structured systematic review**. The comparative perspective across SDI levels and cultural settings offers unique insights for global health research and cancer prevention strategies. The manuscript aligns with international standards for systematic reviews and demonstrates significant value for publication in the journal after minor revisions.

Suggested Minor Revisions:

1. Refine the abstract by more clearly differentiating between modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors.
2. Condense repetitive information in the introduction (e.g., duplicate phrases and extended background).
3. Expand briefly on the search strategy details and justification for the 10-year inclusion period.
4. Shorten or summarize lengthy result tables for readability.
5. Perform minor grammatical and formatting corrections for improved clarity.
6. Conclude with a short section emphasizing policy relevance and culturally tailored prevention strategies.