

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-54419**

Date: 20/10/2025

Title: Assessing Social and Behavioral Competencies of Intermediate Learners: Development and Validation of a Social and Behavioral Competency Scale

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. Anam Zehra**

Date: 21/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This study presents a systematic attempt to develop and validate a **Social and Behavioral Competency Scale (SBCS)** for intermediate learners in the Philippines. It fills a critical gap by producing a culturally relevant, psychometrically sound tool that measures learners' interpersonal, emotional, academic, and environmental competencies. The research is methodologically well-structured and addresses an important need for school-based assessment instruments in socio-emotional domains. However, the manuscript would benefit from minor editorial and analytical refinements to enhance readability and scientific clarity.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS

- Contextual Relevance:** The study contributes significantly to educational measurement by creating a locally validated tool appropriate for Filipino intermediate learners, an area with limited indigenous instruments.
- Methodological Rigor:** Employs a developmental–descriptive R&D approach with systematic validation using expert review, pilot testing, and Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = 0.81$), ensuring internal consistency.
- Comprehensive Competency Framework:** Clearly identifies and operationalizes four domains, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Emotional Regulation, Academic-Related Behaviors, and Environmental Responsibility, reflecting holistic child development.

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4. **Stakeholder Inclusion:** Integrates feedback from experts, administrators, teachers, and students, ensuring ecological and practical validity of the scale.
5. **Practical Utility:** Provides a simple, user-friendly tool with 28 items on a 4-point Likert scale, adaptable for school evaluation, guidance, and intervention programs.

WEAKNESSES

1. **Language and Style:** The manuscript requires grammatical and stylistic refinement to remove repetition and ensure sentence coherence, particularly in the *Results* and *Insights* sections.
2. **Data Presentation:** The statistical validation table (Table 1) could be condensed or reformatted for clarity; mean interpretation should follow APA 7 tabular standards.
3. **Literature Review Depth:** Needs deeper engagement with more recent literature (2021–2024) on social-emotional learning (SEL) and behavioral assessment tools in Southeast Asia.
4. **Discussion Limitation:** The discussion could integrate theoretical alignment with frameworks such as CASEL or Vygotskian socio-cultural learning for a stronger conceptual base.
5. **Translation Emphasis:** Excessive repetition of respondents' translation feedback (English to Filipino) could be summarized for better flow.