

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. Touseef Malik**

Date: 21/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The manuscript makes a substantial contribution to the field of educational assessment and child development by presenting the design, development, and validation of the Social and Behavioral Competency Scale (SBCS) for intermediate learners. It demonstrates rigorous methodological procedures, clear construct development, and practical educational implications. The study's strength lies in its cultural adaptation to the Filipino educational context, ensuring contextual relevance. Minor issues related to sentence refinement, visual clarity, and technical formatting can be addressed to further improve its scholarly impact.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS

- Cultural Relevance and Innovation:** The tool development addresses a clear research gap by creating a **culturally appropriate and age-appropriate** instrument for assessing social and behavioral competencies of Filipino intermediate learners.
- Methodological Soundness:** Employs **Research and Development (R&D)** and **Descriptive Developmental design**, with expert validation, pilot testing, and statistical analysis (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.81$), ensuring strong reliability.

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3. **Comprehensive Framework:** Covers four domains, interpersonal and communication skills, emotional regulation, academic-related behavior, and environmental responsibility, demonstrating holistic conceptualization.
4. **Empirical Clarity:** Systematically presents expert validation data and student feedback, reinforcing the tool's psychometric validity and user-centered design.
5. **Practical Applicability:** The SBCS can be readily adopted by teachers and administrators for behavioral screening, classroom guidance, and intervention planning.

WEAKNESSES

1. **Language and Grammar:** The manuscript has occasional lapses in sentence structure, spacing, and punctuation (e.g., merged words and long paragraphs), which require careful proofreading.
2. **Formatting:** Tables should be standardized per APA 7th edition, with proper alignment and caption placement.
3. **Limited Statistical Scope:** The validation relies primarily on descriptive statistics and Cronbach's alpha; exploratory factor analysis (EFA) or confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) could enhance construct validity.
4. **Redundancy:** Some introductory sections reiterate concepts of social competence and behavior without advancing new insights.
5. **Visual Representation:** The inclusion of one conceptual diagram summarizing tool development stages or domains would increase clarity and visual engagement.