

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No. IJAR-54453

Date: 22/10/2025

Title: Sound as Solace: Insights into the Evolution and Practice of Music Therapy in India

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: 22/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript presents a rich, well-organized qualitative exploration of music therapy in India, covering historical lineages (Vedic chant to raga chikitsa), institutional developments (training bodies, practitioners), present-day practices, and systemic barriers. Through semi-structured interviews with six practicing therapists, it synthesizes motivations, methods, assessment approaches, regulatory gaps, and future outlook, offering a much-needed country-specific account that blends cultural roots with contemporary clinical perspectives. Overall, it is timely, contextually grounded, and clearly written, although it would benefit from tighter methods reporting, crisper tables/figures, and a light touch of APA formatting polish.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS

- Cultural depth with contemporary relevance:** Persuasively connects heritage-based sound practices to modern therapeutic frameworks and service settings.
- Clear qualitative design:** Thematic analysis of practitioner interviews yields practice-proximal insights on assessment, client tailoring, and team-based work.
- Policy and systems orientation:** Identifies certification/regulatory gaps, uneven training standards, and awareness deficits with implications for national adoption.

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4. **Coherent structure:** Progresses logically from evolution and identity to practice models, challenges, and future outlook.
5. **Readable and accessible:** Headings, flow, and language support comprehension for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers alike.

WEAKNESSES

1. **Methods specificity:** Participant snapshot (roles, experience, settings, training), recruitment path, and ethics/consent procedures should be summarized more explicitly.
2. **Analytic transparency:** Briefly explain coding steps, codebook development, and any reliability/validation checks to bolster credibility.
3. **Evidentiary anchors:** Include short anonymized quotes to ground key claims (e.g., misconceptions, assessment blends, training critiques).
4. **Scope and limitations:** Clarify sampling boundaries (region, urban bias, small N) and acknowledge the absence of observation/artefact triangulation.
5. **Editing and formatting:** Standardize headings and captions, address minor hyphenation/spacing issues, and align references with APA 7.