

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. Anam Zehra**

Date: 22/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This qualitative manuscript traces the historical roots of music-based healing in the subcontinent and examines contemporary professional practice via semi-structured interviews with therapists. The paper is well written, thematically organized (history → practice → challenges → policy), and timely given the mental-health treatment gap. The contribution is primarily integrative and practice-oriented; strengthening methodological transparency, clarifying sampling/analysis decisions, and adding richer excerpts or tables would increase credibility and reuse value. With targeted improvements, the article will be useful for clinicians, educators, and policymakers.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS

1. Clear timeline connecting classical traditions to contemporary therapeutic practice, providing a strong conceptual scaffold.
2. Thematic organization (history → practice → challenges → policy) aligns with real service needs and implementation pathways.
3. Balanced discussion of opportunities (cultural resonance, digital delivery) and constraints (regulation, access, standardization).
4. Actionable recommendations on certification, curriculum integration, funding, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

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5. Readable presentation with crisp headings suitable for teaching, policy briefs, and stakeholder communication.

WEAKNESSES

1. Insufficient detail on sampling frame, recruitment pathways, participant characteristics, and evidence of saturation.
2. Thematic analysis is summarized without demonstrative verbatim excerpts, coding snapshots, or trustworthiness procedures.
3. Overbroad clinical claims without explicit contextual boundaries or conditions where music therapy is adjunct vs. standalone.
4. Limited treatment of equity (regional/language/socioeconomic) and ethical safeguards for remote/online sessions; recent program evaluations could be better represented.