

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54680

Title: Testing of a Career Mentorship Program Survey for Dental Interns at King Abdulaziz University

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 S. K. Nath

Date: 07.11.25

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths:

- Relevance and Importance:** The study addresses an essential aspect of dental education—mentorship—and its assessment within the culturally specific context of Saudi Arabia, filling a notable gap in the literature.
- Clear Objectives and Methodology:** The paper outlines specific aims to evaluate survey feasibility, clarity, and acceptability. The use of a pilot study with a small but representative sample demonstrates a thoughtful approach to instrument validation.
- Comprehensive Background and Literature Context:** The review of existing literature emphasizes the importance of mentorship programs and their impact on career development, establishing the study's rationale effectively.
- Practical Implications:** The findings have clear applicability toward developing structured mentorship programs at King Abdulaziz University, with potential broader implications.

Weaknesses:

- Limited Sample Size:** The pilot involved only **five interns**, which, while appropriate for initial testing, limits generalizability and psychometric validation of the instrument.
- Lack of Psychometric Testing:** Although the pilot identified wording issues, the study does not include statistical validation (e.g., reliability or validity testing) of the survey instrument.
- Minor Linguistic and Formatting Issues:** There are typographical inconsistencies (e.g., spaces and formatting artifacts in the references), minor grammatical errors, and repetitive statements that could be improved.
- Methodological Details:** Additional detail about how qualitative feedback was analyzed (e.g., thematic analysis, coding process) would strengthen the transparency and reproducibility of the study.
- Ethical Clearance:** The manuscript mentions ethical approval was obtained but lacks specific details such as the ethical approval number or date, which are often required for publication.
- Clarity of Some Content:** Certain parts of the text (e.g., descriptions of the survey items or specific revisions) could be more detailed for clarity.

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Specific Recommendations for the Authors:

- **Typographical/Grammatical Corrections:** Review the manuscript for minor errors, such as inconsistent spacing, punctuation, or sentence structure. For example, ensure uniformity in referencing and proper placement of references.
- **Ethical Clearance Details:** Explicitly state the ethical approval number or reference, including the date of approval, in the methods section to comply with publication standards.
- **Methodological Clarification:** Describe the qualitative analysis procedure used for feedback (e.g., thematic analysis, coding method).
- **Expand on Limitations:** Acknowledge the small sample size explicitly and outline plans for future validation with larger cohorts.
- **Presentation Enhancements:** Improve readability by reorganizing some sections for clarity and ensuring consistent formatting throughout the document.