

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55077

Title: Impact of Reforms to Vocational Qualification Certificate on Training and Professional Integration of Graduates in Benin: Case of Municipality of Porto-Novo

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**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript examines the impact of reforms related to the Vocational Qualification Certificate (CQM) on training quality and professional integration within the craft sector in Benin. The topic is significant, contextually relevant, and contributes to understanding how policy reforms influence vocational pathways. The manuscript provides extensive background, rich qualitative accounts, and descriptive quantitative findings. However, the methodology requires greater precision, several sections are excessively lengthy, and the analysis would benefit from stronger thematic synthesis and clearer alignment with the stated objectives. Major revision is recommended to enhance clarity, rigor, and coherence.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS

1. The manuscript addresses an important national reform in vocational training, offering timely insights into how CQM reforms shape training quality and graduate integration within the craft sector.
2. The mixed-methods approach strengthens the study by combining quantitative information from graduates with qualitative perspectives from experts, master craftsmen, and institutional authorities.
3. The paper provides a detailed contextual analysis of traditional apprenticeship, skill acquisition, and structural challenges in the craft sector, enhancing the depth of background understanding.
4. The study includes clear descriptions of participant groups, sample size, and data collection tools, contributing to transparency and replicability.

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5. The discussion section highlights practical barriers to professional integration, such as inadequate training structures, limited equipment, skill gaps, and market saturation, offering valuable implications for policy and practice.

WEAKNESSES

1. The methodology section is very detailed but lacks clarity regarding the structure of instruments, reliability procedures, and justification for combining purposive and accidental sampling.
2. Several sections, particularly the introduction and discussion, are overly long and include repeated explanations that could be condensed to maintain focus and improve readability.
3. The analysis does not fully integrate qualitative and quantitative findings, and the link between reforms, training quality, and integration outcomes requires clearer thematic synthesis.
4. The paper heavily relies on descriptive statistics without providing deeper interpretation or connecting results to broader vocational training theories.
5. The conclusion reiterates earlier findings rather than presenting a concise synthesis that highlights limitations, implications, and directions for future research.