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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55079

Title: Unlocking Time, Unlocking Potential: How JJM Enhances Women's Participation in SHGs in Dima Hasao, Assam

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 M Devaki

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Overall Evaluation

The manuscript presents a well-structured and relevant study examining how the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) influences women's empowerment and SHG participation in Dima Hasao, Assam. The topic is timely, socially significant, and aligned with national development priorities such as Viksit Bharat 2047. The mixed-methods approach is appropriate, and the quantitative analysis is clearly presented with supportive qualitative insights. The paper offers valuable empirical evidence highlighting water access as a catalyst for gender empowerment, but it requires refinement in academic writing quality, organization, and methodological clarity. Strengthening these components will significantly enhance the scientific rigor and readability of the manuscript.

Strengths

1. Strong and Relevant Research Topic

Addresses a critical intersection of water access, gender empowerment, and rural development. Focus on tribal district adds originality and policy relevance.

2. Clear Research Objectives and Questions

Well-defined aims and research questions provide clarity and guide the study effectively.

3. Mixed-Methods Approach

Integration of household surveys, FGDs, and statistical analysis enhances the depth and credibility of findings. Use of both descriptive and inferential statistics is appropriate.

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4. Well-Presented Results

Tables (time saved, SHG participation, empowerment scores) are clear and statistically significant. Qualitative quotes are meaningful and support the quantitative results.

5. Good Review of Literature

Cites relevant global and national studies relating to WaSH, women, and empowerment.

6. Strong Policy Relevance

Findings align with national initiatives and offer useful suggestions to strengthen rural development programs.

Areas for Improvement

1. Language and Grammar

Several sentences are long, repetitive, or lack clarity. Minor grammatical errors and formatting issues (line breaks, inconsistent spacing) affect readability.

2. Introduction Structure

- Introduction is informative but lengthy; consider reorganizing into:
 - Global context
 - National context
 - Local relevance
 - Research gap
 - Purpose of the study

3. Literature Review Integration

Literature is present but not critically synthesised. Add a short sub-section on “Research Gap” to highlight what is missing in existing studies.

4. Methodology Clarity

Sampling procedure needs clearer justification (Why 100? Why only women? How were SHG participants selected?). Explain statistical tests (paired t-test, chi-square) more briefly and relate them to research questions.

5. Results Interpretation

While statistical results are clear, deeper interpretation is needed. Add more explanation on *how* and *why* JJM impacts empowerment beyond time saved.

6. Discussion Enhancement

Discussion should compare results with prior literature more directly. Add limitations (sampling bias, only high-performing villages, self-reported data) to increase transparency.

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7. Formatting and Referencing

Some repeated hyperlinks and reference entries need correction. Ensure APA or journal-specific format consistency.