



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55093

Title: Sustainability and Community Participation in Rural Water Governance: Evidence from the Jal Jeevan Mission in Karnataka.

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: Abdul Hameed Shah

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript presents an important and timely empirical investigation into the sustainability of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across four districts of Karnataka, with a special focus on community participation and its association with educational qualifications. The topic aligns well with current policy-level and academic discussions surrounding water governance, decentralization, and rural infrastructure sustainability in India.

Strengths of the Manuscript

1. Relevance and Originality:

The study addresses a critical gap by evaluating sustainability outcomes at a district level under JJM, a flagship national programme. The integration of community participation, sustainability metrics, and quantitative evidence enhances the originality of this contribution.

2. Robust Data and Methodology:

The use of a sizable sample (692 households) and appropriate statistical tools such as ANOVA and correlation analysis strengthens the empirical rigour of the research. The hypotheses are clearly stated and logically tested.

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3. Clear Interpretation of Results:

Statistical findings are well explained, especially the district-wise differences and the absence of correlation between education and community involvement. The interpretations are reasonable and policy-relevant.

4. Comprehensive Background and Literature Review:

The manuscript demonstrates good command over recent literature, connecting sustainability themes with governance, community behaviour, and environmental conditions.

Areas Requiring Minor Revision

1. Clarification on Sampling and Representativeness:

Although random sampling is stated, additional detail on sampling procedure (e.g., village selection, household listing method) would strengthen the methodological clarity.

2. Formatting and Minor Language Issues:

A few sections contain typographical or grammatical inconsistencies (e.g., spacing, punctuation). These should be corrected for improved readability.

3. Discussion on Policy Implications:

While discussion is strong, adding explicit, actionable policy recommendations (e.g., strengthening VWSCs, district-level governance reforms, capacity-building modules) would enhance the practical value of the manuscript.

4. Conclusion Could Highlight Limitations More Clearly:

Including a brief section on limitations (e.g., reliance on self-reported data, not including qualitative insights) would increase transparency and academic rigour.

5. Table Presentation:

Ensure all tables follow consistent formatting (headings, spacing, citation). The Tukey HSD table could be reorganized for better readability.

Overall Recommendation

The manuscript is well structured, methodologically sound, and highly relevant to both academic and policy audiences. Only minor revisions are required to enhance clarity, presentation, and methodological transparency. After addressing these revisions, the paper is suitable for publication.

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