REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.:   IJAR- 55229

Title: Community-Based Digital Empowerment of Rural Women in Sidenreng Rappang: Integritas Local Wisdom and Institutiona; Support for Sustainable MSMEs

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✔,		
Techn. Quality		✔,		
Clarity	✔,			
Significance	✔,			

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article "Community-Based Digital Empowerment of Rural Women in Sidenreng Rappang: Integrating Local Wisdom and Institutional Support for Sustainable MSMEs" presents a well-conceptualized and empirically grounded study of rural women's empowerment in the context of digital transformation and community participation. The topic is highly relevant to current debates on gender, development, and digital inclusion, particularly in the Global South, where structural inequalities, patriarchal norms, and technological disparities continue to limit women's economic agency. By focusing on rural women entrepreneurs in Sidenreng Rappang, the study offers a valuable localized perspective while engaging with broader theoretical and policy-oriented discussions on sustainable development and MSMEs

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One of the major strengths of the article lies in its integrated analytical framework, which brings together local wisdom, community participation, digital literacy, and institutional support. The qualitative research design, combining phenomenological and ethnographic approaches, is appropriate for capturing the lived experiences of rural women and the socio-cultural contexts in which empowerment initiatives operate. The use of in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, participatory observation, and policy document

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analysis allows for rich triangulation of data. The application of NVivo 12 Plus for thematic coding and network analysis further strengthens the methodological rigor, enabling the authors to map relationships between actors, supporting factors, and empowerment outcomes in a systematic manner

The findings are clearly articulated and contribute meaningfully to the literature on women's empowerment and digitalization. The article effectively demonstrates how MSMEs managed by rural women are embedded in a collaborative ecosystem shaped by cultural values, community networks, and government facilitation. The discussion of local wisdom as a source of cultural identity and product innovation is particularly insightful, showing how traditional knowledge can coexist with and even enhance digital and entrepreneurial practices. The network visualizations and descriptive analysis convincingly illustrate the indirect yet significant role played by local governments and communities in strengthening empowerment and digital adoption, even when direct digital engagement remains limited.

At the same time, the article does not overlook persistent challenges. The acknowledgement of patriarchal norms, partial empowerment indices, and the ongoing digital divide adds critical depth and prevents the analysis from becoming overly optimistic. The conclusion appropriately emphasizes that empowerment must go beyond skills training to include structural reforms, access to credit, and sustained institutional support, which enhances the policy relevance of the study.

Despite these strengths, the manuscript would benefit from minor revisions. The writing, while generally clear, occasionally becomes repetitive, particularly in the introduction and problem statement, where similar arguments about barriers and digital divides are reiterated. Condensing these sections would improve readability and narrative flow. Additionally, while the study engages extensively with international literature, the discussion could be further strengthened by more explicitly situating the Sidenreng Rappang case within comparative regional or national contexts. Minor language and stylistic editing would also enhance clarity for an international readership.

Overall, the article makes a solid scholarly contribution by offering an integrated and context-sensitive model of community-based digital empowerment for rural women. Its empirical richness, methodological rigor, and policy relevance outweigh its minor presentational limitations.

Recommendation: The article is recommended for publication after minor revision.