

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55321

Title: Time to Rethink Foster Care in India.

### 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 "*Time to Rethink Foster Care in India*" offers a timely, well-structured, and policy-relevant analysis of foster care as an alternative child care mechanism within the Indian context. The paper successfully situates foster care within the broader framework of constitutional values, inclusive development, and rights-based welfare. The discussion is comprehensive and grounded in an extensive review of secondary sources, including legislation, policy documents, and reports from national and international organizations.

The strength of the paper lies in its detailed examination of policy gaps, administrative challenges, and socio-cultural barriers that hinder the effective implementation of foster care in India. The author's engagement with democratic institutions—the legislature, executive, judiciary, and civil society—adds analytical depth and originality, highlighting foster care not merely as a welfare intervention but as a critical component of inclusive development and social justice. The discussion section is particularly strong in linking governance structures with child rights outcomes.

The manuscript demonstrates good clarity and coherence, though minor revisions are recommended to further enhance its academic rigor and readability. Some sections would benefit from tighter editing to reduce repetition and improve flow. The inclusion of clearer sub-headings in the discussion section may improve navigation for readers. Additionally, while the reliance on secondary data is appropriate for the study's objectives, explicitly stating the limitations of this approach in the methodology section would strengthen methodological transparency.

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Overall, the paper makes a meaningful contribution to the discourse on child protection and foster care policy in India. With minor revisions addressing clarity, structure, and presentation, the manuscript is suitable for publication and would be of interest to scholars, policymakers, and practitioners working in child welfare and social policy.