

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55613

Title: Impact of Social Media Usage on Depression Among Adolescents in a Local Context – A Cross-Sectional Study

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. Arpith Kumar L M

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript addresses an important and contemporary issue concerning adolescent mental health and social media usage in a local context. While the study has merit and relevance, several sections require revision to improve scientific clarity, methodological precision, and overall presentation.

1. Title

- Revision required:**

The title is appropriate; however, it may benefit from explicitly stating the **correlational nature** of the study to avoid causal implication (e.g., “association” or “relationship”).

2. Abstract

- Some statements imply **causation** rather than correlation.
- The conclusion in the abstract should be rewritten to clearly reflect **associative findings only**.
- Minor grammatical corrections are required for clarity.

3. Introduction

- The introduction is comprehensive but **lengthy**.
- Certain background statements are repetitive and can be condensed.
- Improve flow by clearly separating global context, local context, and study rationale.

4. Objectives

- Objectives are clearly stated and aligned with the study design.
- Consider simplifying wording for conciseness.

5. Review of Literature

- The literature review is extensive but **over-detailed**.
- Some references are repeatedly discussed with similar interpretations.
- Group studies thematically (prevalence, gender differences, platform effects) to enhance readability.

6. Methodology

- Study design and sampling are appropriate.

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- Clarify the rationale for selecting **Chi-square test only**, despite having multiple moderator variables.
- Consider mentioning why **multivariate analysis** was not performed (as a limitation).
- Correct minor typographical and formatting errors.

7. Data Collection Tool

- The description of the PHQ-9 tool is adequate but repetitive.
- Reduce redundancy and improve sentence construction.
- Correct spelling and capitalization inconsistencies.

8. Results

- Results are clearly presented and supported by tables.
- Ensure consistent formatting of tables and headings.
- Avoid interpretative statements in the Results section; restrict to factual reporting only.

9. Discussion

- The Discussion section is **excessively long and repetitive**.
- Several paragraphs restate results rather than interpret them.
- Causal language (e.g., “leads to,” “causes”) must be replaced with **associative terms**.
- Streamline comparisons with existing literature and reduce redundancy.

10. Conclusion

- The conclusion currently implies causality; this must be corrected.
- Emphasize **correlation and public health relevance**, not cause–effect.
- Shorten and focus on key findings and implications.

11. Limitations

- Limitations are appropriately mentioned.
- Explicitly reiterate that **causality cannot be inferred** due to the cross-sectional design.

12. Recommendations and Future Research

- Recommendations are appropriate.
- Consider prioritizing fewer, more focused future research directions.

13. Language, Grammar, and Formatting

- Numerous grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and awkward sentence structures are present.
- Professional English language editing is strongly recommended.
- Formatting inconsistencies in headings, tables, and references should be corrected.

Overall Comment

The manuscript presents valuable data and addresses a significant research gap in adolescent mental health within a local setting. However, **major revisions are necessary**, particularly in the Discussion, Conclusion, and language quality, before the manuscript can be considered for publication.