

## 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. Amina

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript investigates the **association between social media usage and depression among Filipino adolescents**, using a cross-sectional design and a validated screening tool (PHQ-9 modified for teens). The topic is **highly relevant and timely**, especially given the increasing prevalence of adolescent mental health concerns in the digital age and the limited number of locally grounded studies in the Philippine context.

### Strengths

#### 1. Public health relevance:

The study addresses an important and growing concern—adolescent depression linked to social media usage—particularly within a local Philippine setting, thereby filling a significant research gap.

#### 2. Clear objectives and scope:

The research objectives are well stated and aligned with the methodology and results, focusing on time spent on social media, demographic variables, and depression severity.

#### 3. Appropriate methodology:

The use of an analytical cross-sectional design and a validated instrument (PHQ-9 modified for teens) strengthens the reliability and comparability of the findings.

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**4. Adequate sample size:**

The achieved sample size exceeds the computed requirement, increasing the statistical power of the study.

**5. Ethical considerations:**

Proper attention is given to consent, assent, confidentiality, and referral of participants with high depression scores, which is commendable.

**6. Comprehensive discussion:**

Findings are contextualized with existing international and local literature, enhancing the academic value of the discussion.

## **Weaknesses and Suggestions for Improvement**

**1. Language and grammar:**

The manuscript contains numerous grammatical errors, typographical mistakes, and awkward sentence constructions. Substantial language editing is required to improve clarity, coherence, and academic tone.

**2. Structural organization:**

Some sections are overly lengthy and repetitive, particularly the introduction, literature review, and discussion. Condensing and streamlining these sections would enhance readability.

**3. Statistical reporting:**

While Chi-square tests are mentioned, exact p-values and confidence intervals are inconsistently reported. Clearer presentation of statistical results in both text and tables is recommended.

**4. Conceptual framework clarity:**

The roles of mediator and moderator variables are conceptually explained but not fully integrated into the statistical analysis. Clarification on whether and how these variables were analytically tested is needed.

**5. Causality interpretation:**

Although the study states that causality cannot be inferred, some statements in the discussion and conclusion imply causal relationships. These should be rephrased to consistently reflect correlational findings.

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### 6. Formatting and consistency:

There are inconsistencies in headings, spacing, referencing style, and citation numbering that should be corrected to meet journal standards.

### Overall Assessment

The manuscript presents a **valuable contribution to adolescent mental health research**, particularly in the Philippine context. The study is methodologically sound and addresses a topic of high social and clinical significance. However, **minor revisions** are necessary, primarily focusing on **language refinement, structural tightening, statistical clarity, and cautious interpretation of findings**.