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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.

REVIEWER'S REPORT**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.

REVIEWER'S REPORT**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**.