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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55729

Title: Financial Support Pathways for M.D. Students: Promoting Equity and Academic Excellence.

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.

Strengths of the Manuscript

The study addresses a timely and significant issue by examining the financial challenges faced by M.D. students and the role of scholarships in promoting equity and diversity within medical education. Beyond financial assistance, the manuscript offers a nuanced discussion of the broader benefits of scholarships, including their influence on professional development and societal contribution. The empirical comparison between scholarship recipients and non-recipients is clearly presented and supported through multiple academic performance indicators. Relevant and up-to-date references are used effectively, situating the study within the wider body of medical education research. In addition, the paper highlights important policy implications, particularly the need for collaborative strategies to expand access to scholarship opportunities.

Limitations and Areas for Improvement

While the quantitative analysis provides useful insights, it relies exclusively on score-based comparisons, which may not fully capture the broader impacts of scholarships, such as student motivation, psychological well-being, or long-term career trajectories. Although the sample size is acceptable, the absence of detailed demographic data limits understanding of participant diversity and representativeness. Methodologically, the analysis is restricted mainly to t-tests, with insufficient detail regarding statistical procedures, assumptions, or the control of potential confounding variables. Another notable limitation is the lack of information regarding ethical approval and informed consent, which raises concerns about ethical oversight. Furthermore, certain sections—particularly the discussion—would benefit from clearer elaboration and deeper

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engagement with alternative or contrasting findings. Minor formatting inconsistencies and grammatical errors also affect overall readability.

Specific Sectional Comments**• Title and Abstract:**

The title is clear, focused, and accurately reflects the study's subject matter. The abstract effectively summarizes the aims, findings, and relevance of the research; however, its clarity could be improved by more clearly separating the background, methodology, results, and conclusions.

• Introduction and Research Objectives:

The introduction successfully establishes the importance of financial support in medical education. Nevertheless, incorporating more recent data and explicitly stating research questions or hypotheses would strengthen this section.

• Methodology and Statistical Procedures:

The statistical analysis is primarily based on t-tests comparing average academic scores. Additional details regarding the statistical software used, tested assumptions, and analytical limitations are needed. Moreover, key variables such as socioeconomic background, ethnicity, and prior academic achievement are not controlled for, which may influence the results.

• Results and Discussion:

The results are presented in a clear and accessible manner. However, the discussion relies heavily on non-significant statistical findings without sufficiently exploring qualitative dimensions or potential long-term outcomes associated with scholarship support.

• Conclusion and Implications:

The conclusions are generally supported by the findings, though they should more clearly distinguish between short-term academic performance—which appears largely unaffected by scholarships—and the broader educational and social benefits highlighted in the discussion.

• Ethical Considerations:

The manuscript does not state whether ethical approval was obtained or whether informed consent was secured. This omission should be addressed, as ethical clearance is essential for research involving student data.

• Language, Tables, and References:

The manuscript is generally well written but contains minor grammatical and typographical errors that require correction. Tables are clear, though reference formatting is inconsistent. Some citations appear improperly embedded within the text, and both in-text citations and reference lists should follow a consistent style.