



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56235

Title: Soft Skills Integration in English Department Curricula: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation and Experiential Coursebook Development.

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: shafiya Akhter

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript presents a timely and policy-relevant mixed-methods investigation into the integration of soft skills within English Studies curricula in Moroccan higher education. The study addresses a clear and meaningful gap between national reform frameworks and classroom implementation, offering both empirical findings and a practical instructional outcome in the form of an experiential coursebook.

The use of a convergent parallel mixed-methods design strengthens the study by combining quantitative measurement of student development with qualitative insights into instructor practices. The statistical procedures referenced (paired-sample t-tests and repeated-measures ANOVA) are appropriate for detecting pre-post changes across a semester. The qualitative exploration of instructors' pedagogical strategies adds contextual depth and enhances interpretive validity.

The manuscript's strongest contribution lies in its practical dimension: the development of an experiential, activity-based coursebook grounded in empirical findings and theoretical frameworks. The integration of self-regulated learning, experiential learning theory, inquiry-based learning, and cognitive load theory demonstrates conceptual coherence and thoughtful curriculum architecture. The study also carries strong institutional and national significance, particularly in aligning classroom practices with Morocco's competency-based reform agenda.

However, several minor revisions are recommended to strengthen clarity, rigor, and presentation:

1. Methodological Clarification

- The manuscript should provide clearer details regarding sample size, participant demographics, instrument validation, reliability indices, and effect sizes for quantitative findings.

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- Clarify how soft skills were operationalized and measured (e.g., validated scales vs. self-developed instruments).
 - Provide more detail about qualitative data analysis procedures (coding strategy, trustworthiness measures, triangulation).
2. **Results Presentation**
- While improvements are reported, the manuscript would benefit from clearer reporting of statistical outcomes (e.g., exact p-values, effect sizes, confidence intervals).
 - Consider summarizing key quantitative results in a table for transparency.
3. **Coursebook Description**
- The experiential coursebook is a central contribution; therefore, a brief structured overview (sample unit outline or framework summary) would strengthen the pedagogical contribution.
4. **Language and Editing**
- Minor stylistic inconsistencies and punctuation issues should be revised.
 - Some sections (particularly theoretical framework descriptions) could be slightly condensed to improve readability.
5. **Conceptual Framing**
- The manuscript could benefit from a brief discussion of potential limitations (e.g., reliance on self-perceived measures, generalizability beyond English departments).

Overall, this study makes a valuable empirical and practical contribution to higher education reform, curriculum development, and experiential learning research in Morocco. With minor clarifications and editorial refinement, the manuscript is suitable for publication.