

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_SAJ SSE_127336
Title of the Manuscript:	EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY BASED ON THE ZONING SYSTEM IN TARUTUNG DISTRICT: A SPATIAL ANALYSIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT ADMISSION POLICIES
Type of the Article	

#### General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

<https://r1.reviewerhub.org/general-editorial-policy/>

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#### PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b>	This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it addresses the critical issue of educational inequality through a rigorous spatial analysis of school accessibility in Tarutung District. By applying the Neighborhood Unit theory and using GIS tools, it provides empirical evidence of how zoning policies can unintentionally exacerbate disparities in educational access, particularly for students in rural areas. I appreciate its practical approach to suggesting policy revisions, such as redistributing educational facilities and improving transportation infrastructure, which are actionable and relevant to education policymakers.	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	The current title, "Evaluation of Educational Facility Accessibility Based on the Zoning System in Tarutung District: A Spatial Analysis and Its Implications for Student Admission Policies", is clear and adequately conveys the manuscript's focus. However, it could be more concise. Suggested alternative: " <b>Spatial Analysis of School Accessibility in Tarutung District and Its Policy Implications.</b> "	
<b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b>	The abstract of the article is need to more comprehensive for providing a clear summary bellow the following suggestions could improve its clarity and impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Addition of Socio-Economic Context</li> <li>II. Methodological Tools</li> <li>III. Highlight Key Findings.</li> <li>IV. Simplify Technical Terms: Replace or clarify terms like "SNI 03-1733-2004" for readers unfamiliar with these standards, or briefly explain their relevance.</li> <li>V. Future Implications: Conclude with a forward-looking statement on how the findings could inspire further research or policy development in other regions with similar challenges.</li> </ul>	
<b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b>	The subsections and structure of the manuscript are generally appropriate and well-organized, with a clear flow from introduction to conclusions. Each section is logically laid out and effectively communicates the study's goals, methods, findings, and recommendations. Here are some observations and suggestions for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The introduction provides sufficient background information and a clear statement of the problem, though it could benefit from a more detailed explanation of the socio-economic implications of educational inaccessibility.</li> <li>II. The methodology is detailed and explains the spatial analysis techniques used effectively. Including a dedicated subsection on</li> </ul>	

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	<p>limitations or potential biases in the data collection and analysis process would enhance transparency.</p> <p>III. <b>Results and Discussion:</b> The integration of spatial maps and accessibility data makes the findings visually clear and impactful. However, separating the discussion into a standalone section could help contextualize the results more thoroughly, especially in relation to existing studies.</p> <p>IV. <b>Recommendations:</b> The recommendations are practical and well-justified. Including a "Policy Implications" subsection might strengthen the manuscript by explicitly connecting findings to broader education and infrastructure policies.</p> <p>V. <b>References:</b> The reference list is adequate and appropriately cited, but the manuscript might benefit from additional recent or comparative studies for further context.</p> <p>Overall, the structure supports the manuscript's objectives well, but adding sections on limitations and implications could enhance its depth and utility.</p>	
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>The manuscript demonstrates scientific correctness by employing established spatial analysis methods, such as buffer and overlay analysis, to assess educational accessibility. Its theoretical foundation is robust, grounded in the Neighborhood Unit theory and national accessibility standards (SNI 03-1733-2004), ensuring methodological rigor and relevance. The use of GIS software to analyze spatial data enhances the accuracy and replicability of the findings. Furthermore, the integration of primary data from interviews with school officials and secondary data from government sources ensures a comprehensive and well-validated approach.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p> <p>=</p>	<p>The references cited in the manuscript are relevant, sufficient, and mostly recent, covering key theories, standards, and studies related to zoning policies, spatial analysis, and educational accessibility. They provide a solid foundation for the study's arguments and methodology. However, a few suggestions for improvement are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>Expand Contextual References:</b> Include studies that explore similar issues in other regions or countries, especially in rural or developing contexts, to provide a comparative perspective.</li> <li>II. <b>Incorporate Technological Advancements:</b> Add recent articles discussing advancements in GIS or spatial analysis for policy-making, as these tools are central to the methodology.</li> <li>III. <b>Address Socio-Economic Impacts:</b> Include references that explore the socio-economic implications of educational inequities, as this aspect could enrich the study's conclusions and policy recommendations.</li> </ol> <p><b>Suggested Additional References</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research on GIS and education policy in Southeast Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa for comparative insights.</li> <li>2. Articles on successful implementations of zoning policy reforms and their outcomes.</li> <li>3. Studies on the integration of public transportation planning with educational accessibility to strengthen infrastructure-related recommendations.</li> </ol> <p>Adding these references would provide a broader context and enhance the manuscript's credibility and applicability to global educational challenges.</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>80 percent Yes</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>		

**PART 2:**

	<p><b>Reviewer's comment</b></p>	<p><b>Author's comment</b> (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

**Reviewer Details:**

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