

**Review Form 1.7**

Journal Name:	<b>Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_AJESS_112272</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>The Socio-economic Status of the High School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Girls in Khulna and Rajshahi District: A Quest for Exploring Their Capability</b>
Type of the Article	<b>Original Research Article</b>

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (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><b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments</p> <p><b>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community?</b> (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p><b>2. Is the title of the article suitable?</b> (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p><b>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</b></p> <p><b>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>Yes *****</p> <p>"Unlocking Potential: Exploring the Socio-economic Landscape of High School STEM Girls in Khulna and Rajshahi Districts"</p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>The revised abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the study on the socio-economic status of STEM girls in Khulna and Rajshahi Districts, Bangladesh. It effectively communicates the research objectives, methodology, and key findings. The inclusion of specific socio-economic dimensions, such as religious affiliation, age, marital status, and parental qualifications, adds depth to the analysis. The utilization of both quantitative and qualitative methods, including a questionnaire survey and focus group discussions, enhances the robustness of the study.</i></p> <p>"In Bangladesh, the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education empowers students to choose specialized streams based on aptitude, passion, and academic excellence, paving the way for their preferred college degrees. Those opting for the science stream are perceived as adept in various facets. This study delves into the socio-economic landscape of STEM girls in Khulna and Rajshahi Districts, Bangladesh, enrolled in classes IX and X within the science stream. The objective is to assess their capacity to pursue STEM education. Employing a survey design, 410 STEM girl students from eight girls' high schools in Khulna and Rajshahi were surveyed using questionnaires, selected purposefully and randomly from classes nine and ten. Additionally, four focus group discussions were conducted in selected schools, involving 44 participants, to gather opinions, comments, and observations. Data collection spanned from July 2021 to June 2023. Utilizing descriptive statistics and qualitative methods, the study explores various socio-economic dimensions of STEM girls, including religious affiliation, age, marital status, parents' educational qualifications and occupational status, household income and expenditure analysis, family and sibling information, monthly expense analysis, and residential status. The findings indicate that many STEM girls surpass national benchmarks in certain indices. Despite facing challenges, these STEM girls demonstrate capability within the existing educational framework in Bangladesh."</p> <p>*****</p> <p>The flow from the introduction to the methodology is logical and follows a clear progression. Each subsection provides essential information and context for the study, contributing to a well-structured manuscript.</p> <p>Considering the literature review you provided, here are some recommendations to enhance this section:</p> <p>Specify the Relevance of Global Studies:</p> <p>Discuss the implications of the absence of a formal STEM policy in Bangladesh. Explore how this absence might affect the educational landscape, particularly for female students in high school STEM education. Evaluate Anwar's Thesis:</p>	

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<p><b>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</b></p>          <p><b>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</b></p> <p><b><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></b></p>	<p>Critically evaluate Anwar's undergraduate thesis on women in STEM in Bangladesh. Identify strengths and weaknesses in his analysis and discuss how your study builds upon or addresses any gaps left by his work. Critique Siddiqa and Braga's Research:</p> <p>Offer a critical analysis of Siddiqa and Braga's research on barriers to STEM education for rural girls in Bangladesh. Discuss the limitations of their study and highlight how your research extends beyond these limitations by focusing on socio-economic variables and high school STEM girls in urban areas. Compare with Hoque and Aam's Article:</p> <p>Provide a detailed comparison between your study and Hoque and Aam's article on STEM education and development in Bangladesh. Discuss the differences in objectives and how your research addresses specific gaps or adds new perspectives. Emphasize the District-Specific Focus:</p> <p>Highlight the importance of focusing on Khulna and Rajshahi Districts specifically. Explain why these districts were chosen and how their socio-economic context may differ from the national or global context. Explain the Contribution of Earlier Studies:</p> <p>Clearly articulate how the earlier studies, both global and local, have contributed to shaping the objectives and framing of your present study. Specify the insights gained from these studies that inform the focus on socio-economic variables for high school STEM girls. Strengthen the Link to Your Study Objectives:</p> <p>Strengthen the connection between the literature review and the objectives of your study. Clearly demonstrate how the gaps and insights identified in earlier research lead to the specific objectives and research questions of your study.</p> <p>Remember to balance critique with acknowledgment of the contributions of the previous studies. This will help establish the significance of your research in addressing gaps and advancing knowledge in the field of high school STEM education in Bangladesh.</p> <p>For the Discussion of Result, please consider this suggestion:</p> <p>Expand the discussion section to delve deeper into the implications of the findings. Relate the results to the existing literature and theoretical frameworks. Discuss how the identified factors may contribute to or hinder girls' participation in STEM education and suggest potential solutions or policy implications.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Based on the information provided, the manuscript appears scientifically sound. The introduction provides a clear background, states the problem, reviews relevant literature, and outlines the objectives and research questions. The methodology section is detailed, explaining the research design, participant selection, instrument used, data collection procedure, and data analysis methods.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Here are a few suggestions to further enhance the reference section:</p> <p>Consistency in Citation Styles:</p> <p>Ensure consistency in citation styles across all references. For example, some references include the full names of authors, while others use initials. Consistency adds a professional touch to your references.</p> <p>DOI for Academic Papers:</p>	
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	<p>For academic papers with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), it's good practice to include it in the reference. This provides a stable link to the paper, making it easier for readers to access the source.</p> <p>Unpublished Thesis Citation:</p> <p>For Anwar's unpublished undergraduate thesis, consider providing more details about the nature of the work (e.g., Unpublished undergraduate thesis, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2018). This gives readers more information about the source.</p> <p>Include Page Numbers for Reports:</p> <p>For reports like the Bangladesh Education Statistics, it's helpful to include page numbers if applicable. This helps readers pinpoint specific information within the report.</p> <p>Publication Details for Books:</p> <p>For Chesky and Wolfmeyer's book, it's advisable to include publication details such as the publisher and the publication year. This provides more comprehensive information about the source.</p> <p>DOI for Online Sources:</p> <p>If available, consider including DOIs for online sources like the BBS Population &amp; Housing Census 2022. This ensures that readers can easily access the source online.</p> <p>Format for Personal Communications:</p> <p>Personal communications (e.g., FGD participants) are typically cited within the text but not in the references section. If included in the references, ensure consistency in the format (e.g., Name, Title, Date, Place).</p> <p>Verify URL Accessibility:</p> <p>For online sources, verify the accessibility of URLs to ensure readers can access the content. If URLs are subject to change, consider providing a retrieval date.</p>	
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<p><b>Minor</b> REVISION comments</p> <p><b>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article are generally suitable for scholarly communications. The text is well-structured, and you effectively convey the purpose, background, methodology, and other essential components of a scholarly article. The writing is clear and coherent, making it easy to follow your research narrative.</p> <p>However, I would like to highlight a few minor suggestions to enhance the language and presentation:</p> <p>Consistency in Verb Tenses:</p> <p>Ensure consistency in verb tenses, especially in the methodology section. For instance, you switch between past and present tense. Choose one tense and maintain it throughout for a more polished presentation.</p> <p>Clarity in Sentence Structure:</p> <p>Some sentences are quite long and could be broken down for better clarity. Consider breaking down complex sentences into shorter ones to improve readability.</p> <p>Specificity in Phrasing:</p> <p>In some instances, you can enhance specificity. For example, in the methodology section, when discussing the research instrument, you mention "both open-ended and closed-ended questions." Adding a brief explanation or example could clarify this further.</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p>Your manuscript is promising and addresses an important gap in the literature. The recommendations provided earlier can further enhance the precision and depth of your work.</p>	

**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<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><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:**

<p>Name:</p>	<p><b>Ariel A. Palar</b></p>
<p>Department, University &amp; Country</p>	<p><b>Barobo National High School, Philippines</b></p>