

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJESS_118230
Title of the Manuscript:	EXPERIENCES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS TEACHING IN PANABO CITY DIVISION: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY
Type of the Article	Original research paper

General guideline for 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 guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<https://www.journalajess.com/index.php/AJESS/editorial-policy>)

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>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p>	<p>The manuscript presents a valuable contribution to the field of special education. By exploring the lived experiences of special education teachers in Panabo City Division, the study sheds light on the challenges they face, the strategies they employ, and their perceptions of their role. The manuscript demonstrates a strong understanding of phenomenological research methods and effectively utilizes thematic analysis to identify key themes. While there are areas for improvement, the manuscript provides a solid foundation for further research and informs practice and policy development in special education.</p>	
<p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>Yes. The title accurately reflects the research topic and methodology. It's clear that the study focuses on special education teachers.</p>	
<p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p>	<p>The abstract covers the main elements of a research abstract (background, purpose, methodology, findings, and implications). However, the repeated use of "major themes" and similar phrases makes the writing feel repetitive. Vary the language for better flow and readability. While the abstract mentions the importance of programs, funding, and policies, it could be more specific about the practical implications of the findings.</p>	
<p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>Literature Review: The manuscript would benefit from a more comprehensive literature review integrated into the introduction or as a separate section. This would help establish the research gap and provide a stronger foundation for your study.</p> <p>I. Introduction / Background of the Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Recent research has highlighted the critical role of special education teachers in addressing the diverse needs of students with disabilities and promoting inclusive educational environments (Brownell, Sindelar, Kiely, & Danielson, 2021)." Suggestion: This paragraph is well-placed but could benefit from a brief example or two illustrating the critical roles played by special education teachers, which would provide a clearer link to the subsequent discussion of their challenges. "In the context of Panabo City Division, localized insights into the experiences of special education teachers are essential for informing policy and practice initiatives tailored to the 	

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	<p>unique needs of the region." Suggestion: This paragraph effectively highlights the need for localized research. To enhance clarity, consider specifying what kinds of policy and practice initiatives could be influenced by the findings from this study.</p> <p>Gap of the Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Specificity: While you mention the need for localized insights, the gap could be articulated more specifically. For instance, what aspects of these teachers' experiences are under-researched? Are there particular challenges or strategies unique to this region that have not been explored? o Evidence of Gap: To critically strengthen the argument for the gap, it would be beneficial to cite specific studies or data that show the lack of research in this area. Mentioning previous studies that have covered similar topics in different regions but not in Panabo City Division could highlight the uniqueness of your research focus. o Impact of the Gap: Expand on the implications of this gap not being filled. How does the lack of localized research affect policymaking, educational practices, or the outcomes for students with disabilities in Panabo City Division? <p>II. Theoretical Framework: You mention Social Cognitive Theory, but it needs to be explained in more detail. How does this theory directly connect to the research questions and guide the data analysis?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Social Cognitive Theory, proposed by Bandura in 1986, is the fundamental theory in the study." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Suggestion: This introduction to the theoretical framework is clear. Enhance it by briefly explaining key components of the Social Cognitive Theory that are particularly relevant to this study. • "In the unique context of special education where teachers work with diverse learners with unique needs, Social Cognitive Theory helps researchers understand why teachers behave in certain ways, how they respond to challenges, and what factors contribute to their professional experiences." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Suggestion: This application of the theory is well-explained. Consider adding a specific example or hypothetical scenario to illustrate how these dynamics play out in the classroom. 	
<p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p>	<p>Methodology: The methodology section of the paper, while providing a basic outline of the research design and methods, needs more depth and clarity to meet the standards of rigorous qualitative research.</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Qualitative Approach: Choosing a qualitative approach, specifically phenomenology, is appropriate for exploring the lived experiences and perspectives of special education teachers. o Identification of Sampling Technique: Specifying purposive sampling is a good start, as it aligns with the aim of gathering in-depth information from participants with relevant experience. o Mention of Data Analysis Technique: Indicating the use of thematic analysis is helpful, as it is a widely recognized method for analyzing qualitative data. o Ethical Considerations: Acknowledging the importance of informed consent and ethical considerations is crucial in research involving human participants. <p>Areas for Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Justification of Sample Size: While stating a sample size of 10 participants is a starting point, the rationale for this choice is lacking. How was saturation determined? Was this sample size sufficient to capture the diversity of experiences among special education teachers in the division? o Participant Description: More detailed information about the participants is needed. What are their demographics (years of experience, teaching levels, etc.)? Providing a richer description helps understand the sample's characteristics and 	

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	<p>potential biases.</p> <p>Data Collection Procedures: The description of data collection is quite brief. Provide more specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o How were interviews conducted (in-person, online)? o What were the interview questions (include the interview guide as an appendix)? o How long were the interviews? o How were data (audio recordings, notes) managed and transcribed? <p>Details on Thematic Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Explain the specific steps taken in conducting the thematic analysis (e.g., coding process, identifying themes, ensuring trustworthiness). o Did you use any software to help with data management and analysis? o How were discrepancies in interpretations resolved among the researchers? <p>Results and Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research is based on a wealth of evidence. However, extracts from participant interviews are too short to be convincing. • The results and discussion are presented thematically, which is good. However, direct quotes from participants are limited. Providing more rich, illustrative quotes would make the findings more compelling. 	
<p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p>	<p>Sufficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Coverage: The reference list demonstrates a reasonable effort to cite relevant literature in special education. It includes sources related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Special education teacher experiences (e.g., burnout, workload) o Inclusive education principles o Differentiated instruction and multi-sensory learning o Importance of collaboration and parental involvement o Social Cognitive Theory (although this could be expanded) • Missing Areas: The reference list could be strengthened by including more sources specifically related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Phenomenological research: Include key texts on phenomenological methodology to support the chosen approach. o Special education in the Philippines: Are there any relevant studies or policies specific to the context of your research? 	
<p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>Discussion and Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Comment:</i> "The discussion could be strengthened by more explicitly linking the findings back to Social Cognitive Theory. How do the experiences of the teachers reflect or challenge aspects of this theory?" • Specific and Actionable Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Comment:</i> "The recommendations for practice and policy are rather general. The authors should provide more concrete and actionable suggestions, perhaps drawing on specific examples from their findings." • Limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Comment:</i> "The authors should acknowledge the limitations of their study, such as the small sample size or the specific context of the research. This strengthens the trustworthiness of the findings." 	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>While the article's content seems to have potential, the language needs significant refinement to meet the standards of scholarly communication. Professional editing and careful revision will ensure that the research is presented in a clear, concise, and impactful manner.</p> <p>1. Grammar and Awkward Phrasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Qualitative design utilizing the phenomenological approach was employed in this study to find out the experiences of special education teachers teaching in Panabo City Division." "Saying profanities, not paying attention to teachers, and napping during class hours were great challenges in teaching special education." <p>2. Repetitive Language and Informal Tone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The key informants' idea emphasized the significance of collaborative approaches..." "In line with the informants' perspective..." Vary the language used to refer to the participants' responses. "We always extended our time and support to master basic education concepts..." <p>3. Lack of Flow and Transition Words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special education teachers must address challenging behaviors, adapt curriculum materials, and provide individualized instruction to meet each student's needs, which can be emotionally and physically taxing. Moreover, ensuring a safe learning environment is a critical aspect of special education teaching..." <p>For Improvement: Active Voice: Use active voice whenever possible to make the writing more direct and engaging. Conciseness: Eliminate unnecessary words and phrases. Formal Diction: Avoid colloquialisms, slang, and contractions.</p> <p>Note: Remember, these are just a few examples. A thorough revision of the entire manuscript, keeping these points in mind, will greatly enhance its clarity, flow, and overall quality.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>The paper has a good foundation and addresses a worthwhile topic. However, it requires significant revisions to reach its full potential. Strengthening the literature review, elaborating on the methodology, deepening the discussion, and significantly improving the language and writing style are essential steps to make this manuscript suitable for scholarly publication.</p>	

PART 2:

	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>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

Reviewer Details:

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