

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJESS_116901
Title of the Manuscript:	Civic Education and National Development: A Comprehensive Analysis of Zambia
Type of the Article	

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:

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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><u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript) 2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title) 3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? 4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate? 5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct? 6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form. <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The manuscript is significant for the scientific community, particularly those interested in educational research, civic engagement, and development studies. This comprehensive analysis investigates the pivotal role of civic education in fostering national development, which is a critical issue for democratic societies and those undergoing transitions towards more participative forms of governance. The paper is structured to cover a wide range of relevant topics, including the impact of civic education on democratic values, social cohesion, economic growth, and political engagement. It uses a robust methodological framework that combines qualitative and quantitative analyses, enhancing the validity of its findings. These findings indicate that civic education significantly contributes to increased civic awareness, improved governance understanding, and active citizen participation, which is essential for sustainable democratic development. Additionally, the manuscript does well in identifying challenges hindering effective civic engagement, such as limited access to information and socio-economic barriers. This aspect is crucial for policymakers and educators, providing actionable insights into how civic education programs can be improved and effectively integrated into national educational policies and curricula. Overall, this study is not only timely but offers a valuable contribution to understanding how civic education can enhance democratic governance and national development, making it a valuable resource for academics, policymakers, and practitioners alike. 2. The title is quite suitable for the article as it accurately reflects the focus and scope of the research. The title clearly states the central topics, civic education and national development, while also specifying Zambia's geographical context, which is essential for the study's relevance within a specific national framework. 3. The abstract is generally satisfactory in its coverage of the key elements of the article. It succinctly outlines the major sections of the paper, including an overview of the role of civic education in national development, the body of knowledge reviewed, the methodologies employed, the findings, and recommendations. However, for an abstract to be fully comprehensive, it must also briefly mention the theoretical framework guiding the study and some specifics about the results and implications, which are central to understanding the significance and scope of the research. While the abstract does a good job summarizing the content and purpose of the article, adding a few details about the study's specific contributions to the existing body of knowledge could enhance its comprehensiveness. Additionally, ensuring clarity in summarizing key results and their impact could further strengthen the abstract. <p>1. Introduction: Consider briefly introducing Zambia's geographical and historical context to give readers unfamiliar with the region a better grounding.</p> <p>2. Research Methodology: Add more detail on how the data was specifically analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively, which could include examples of coding schemes or statistical tests used.</p> <p>3. Findings and Discussions: The analysis primarily focuses on the positive impacts of civic education without sufficient exploration of potential negative outcomes or challenges. Practical examples of how civic education might inadvertently reinforce existing biases or fail to reach</p>	

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	<p>marginalized groups could provide a more balanced view. Discussing instances where civic education programs have not met their objectives or have been misused could add depth to the analysis.</p> <p>Again, the presentation of data in charts is helpful, but the analysis could be enhanced by using more sophisticated statistical techniques to analyze relationships and impacts more deeply. For example, regression analysis could be used to determine the strength of the relationship between civic education and various dimensions of national development, controlling for other variables like age, gender, and socio-economic status. Thus, consider highlighting direct quotes or specific anecdotes from the data to bring participants' voices into the narrative.</p> <p>4. Conclusion: Offer a critical reflection on the study's limitations and potential for future research, which can provide a balanced view and suggest avenues for further exploration.</p> <p>5. Recommendations: Detailed details of who exactly should be responsible for each action item where possible. This could include specifying roles within the government or among community organizations to clarify responsibilities.</p> <p>5. The study utilizes both qualitative and quantitative techniques, which is a strong methodological approach as it allows for a comprehensive analysis of the complex topic. However, the validity and reliability of the results depend significantly on the proper execution of these methods. For example, the manuscript mentions using a descriptive design with interviews and questionnaires but does not detail how the qualitative data were specifically analyzed or how biases were controlled in the sampling process.</p> <p>The results section provides specific findings, such as increased awareness and civic engagement, consistent with the literature suggesting that effective civic education can enhance democratic participation. However, scientific rigour would require more detailed statistical analysis or evidence to support these claims robustly. For instance, how significantly did civic education impact these factors compared to other variables?</p> <p>While the manuscript makes broad claims about the effects of civic education, it must also consider potential limitations or confounding factors that might affect these outcomes, such as political stability, cultural factors, or economic conditions. Scientific discussions benefit from acknowledging these limitations and offering suggestions for further research.</p>	
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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The text uses formal language and specific terms pertinent to the subject matter, such as "democratic values", "social cohesion", "purposive and simple random sampling technique", and "descriptive design". This indicates scholarly articles that aim to communicate complex concepts clearly and with precision. ii. The article follows a clear and logical structure typical of scholarly articles, starting with an abstract, followed by an introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. This organization helps in presenting information systematically, aiding comprehension and analysis. iii. The use of citations (e.g., "Chanda, 2023j", "Kaumba, 2015") throughout the article lends credibility and shows engagement with existing research, which is a hallmark of academic discourse. iv. The text employs complex sentence structures and demonstrates depth in analysis, such as discussing the implications of civic education on various aspects of national development. For example, "By nurturing a culture of civic consciousness and activism, nations can address pressing societal challenges, promote inclusive development agendas, and enhance the overall quality of governance." <p>However, academic writing typically maintains consistency in verb tenses. The article occasionally switches tenses, which can be confusing. Maintaining the same tense within sections could improve clarity.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</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>	

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