

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<b>Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_AJESS_122082</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>Exploring External Factors Influencing Career Choices Among Grade 12 Students</b>
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:

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's Feedback</b> <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p><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></p>	<p>This manuscript provides valuable insights into the external factors influencing career choices among Grade 12 students, which is crucial for educators, counselors, and policymakers in guiding students towards informed career decisions. The study's focus on the transition from senior high school to college addresses a critical period in students' lives. I appreciate the comprehensive approach to examining various external factors (parental involvement, societal culture, peer group, and school environment) and the use of both descriptive and comparative analyses. The findings, particularly regarding the dominant influence of societal culture, contribute to our understanding of career decision-making processes among young adults in the Philippines.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The title is suitable as it accurately reflects the content and focus of the study. However, to make it more specific and informative, I suggest:</p> <p>"Exploring External Factors Influencing Career Choices Among Grade 12 Students in a Catholic University in Western Visayas, Philippines"</p>	
<p><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></p>	<p>The abstract is generally comprehensive, providing an overview of the study's purpose, methodology, and key findings. However, it could be improved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Briefly mentioning the specific external factors examined (parental involvement, societal culture, peer group, and school environment).</li> <li>2. Including a brief statement on the theoretical framework (Social Cognitive Career Theory) used in the study.</li> <li>3. Providing more specific results, such as mentioning which external factor had the highest influence.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>The manuscript follows a logical structure with appropriate subsections (Introduction, Methodology, Results and Discussion, Conclusion, Recommendations, References).</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>This manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness through its well-defined research design, appropriate sampling technique, and use of validated survey instruments. The statistical analyses (descriptive statistics, t-tests, and ANOVA) are suitable for addressing the research questions. The authors have grounded their study in relevant literature and theoretical frameworks, particularly the Social Cognitive Career Theory.</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 are generally sufficient and include some recent sources. However, consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updating some older references (e.g., Edwards &amp; Quinter, 2011; Borchert, 2002) with more recent studies on career choice factors.</li> <li>2. Including more international studies for a broader perspective.</li> <li>3. Adding references specifically related to career choice in the Philippines context.</li> </ol>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>The overall language quality is suitable for scholarly communication. However, there are some areas for improvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proofread for minor grammatical errors and typos throughout the manuscript.</li> <li>2. Ensure consistency in tense usage, particularly in the methodology and results sections.</li> <li>3. Refine some complex sentences for clarity, especially in the discussion section.</li> </ol>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Peer review Comments</p> <p>Materials &amp; Methods:</p> <p>The study employs a quantitative design using descriptive and comparative approaches, which is appropriate for the research objectives. The sampling technique (stratified random sampling) and sample size (233 grade 12 students) are clearly stated. However, there are some areas that could be improved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The authors should provide more details on the development and validation process of the survey instrument. While they mention expert validation and reliability testing using Cronbach's Alpha, more specifics would be beneficial. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It has been mentioned that the survey was modified. What article and include citation for the basis of the questionnaire.</li> <li>- What were the exact Cronbach's Alpha values for each subscale (parental involvement, societal culture, peer group, and school environment)?</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The data analysis procedures are briefly described, but more detail would enhance reproducibility. For instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What software was used for statistical analysis?</li> <li>- Were any data normality tests conducted before applying parametric tests like t-test and ANOVA?</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The ethical considerations section is present, which is positive. However, it could be expanded to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How participant confidentiality was maintained</li> <li>- Whether the study received approval from an institutional review board</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Results &amp; Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data robustness and control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The results are presented clearly in tables, which is commendable. However, the authors could improve the robustness of their findings by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reporting effect sizes alongside p-values to indicate the magnitude of differences</li> <li>- Considering potential confounding variables and how they were controlled for</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Relevance and currency of references: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The authors have used a good mix of recent and seminal works. However, some areas could be strengthened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some references are quite recent (e.g., Gaviola et al., 2023; Fernández et al., 2023), which is excellent. However, others are older and could potentially be updated (e.g., Edwards &amp; Quinter, 2011; Borchert, 2002).</li> <li>- The authors could consider including more international studies to provide a broader context for their findings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Discussion based on facts and figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The discussion generally links well to the results and existing literature. However, some improvements could be made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When discussing differences between male and female students, the authors make some unsupported claims. For example, "This means that male students are more susceptible to influence because they shoulder greater responsibilities as they are anticipated to be the primary providers of their future families." This statement needs to be supported by data from the study or relevant literature.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The discussion of STEM-AMH students being more influenced by external factors could be more directly tied to the data presented in the results section.</li> </ul> <p>4. Statistical analyses: The use of descriptive statistics, t-tests, and ANOVA is appropriate for the research questions. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Post-hoc tests for ANOVA are not mentioned. If conducted, these should be reported to show which specific groups differed from each other.</li> <li>- The authors could consider using multivariate analyses to examine the interplay between different external factors simultaneously.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes the main findings of the study and relates them to existing theories (Social Cognitive Career Theory). This is a strength of the paper. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The conclusion could be more tightly linked to the specific results presented. For example, it states that "societal culture influence emerges as the dominant influencer," but this isn't clearly shown in the results tables.</li> <li>- The implications drawn from the results could be more specific and actionable. For instance, what specific changes in society are suggested by these findings?</li> </ul> <p>References: The reference list is comprehensive and follows a consistent format, which is commendable. To improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure all in-text citations are present in the reference list (e.g., Lent et al., 1994 is mentioned in the text but not in the reference list)</li> <li>- Some online sources lack retrieval dates, which should be added for non-academic web pages</li> </ul>	
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**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)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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