



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57733

Title: Operating methods and reasons for funding shortfalls in the Decentralized Management Committees of Schools and the Municipal Federation of said committees in the municipality of Droum (Niger).

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: **ANAPANA GOPAL**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Comments

The manuscript examines the operational methods and causes of funding deficits within the Decentralized Management Committees of Schools (CGDES) and their Municipal Federation (FC/CGDES) in the commune of Droum, Niger. The topic is socially relevant because participatory school governance and educational financing are critical issues in developing countries, particularly in rural educational systems.

The study provides valuable field-based observations regarding governance challenges, community participation, local political interference, and financial mobilization constraints affecting school management committees. However, the manuscript requires substantial revision to improve scientific quality, methodological clarity, language accuracy, organization, and analytical depth.

Content and Originality

The manuscript addresses an important educational governance issue in the context of decentralization and participatory school management in Niger. The focus on financial deficits in school management committees at the municipal level provides local administrative and policy relevance.

Strengths:

Focus on a relatively underexplored rural educational governance issue.

Use of field-based data collection.

Inclusion of social, cultural, and political dimensions affecting school financing.

Discussion of both internal and external causes of funding deficits.

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Concerns:

1. The research objectives are not explicitly and clearly formulated.
2. The manuscript lacks a strong theoretical or conceptual framework.
3. Original contribution to educational management literature is insufficiently highlighted.
4. The study is largely descriptive and lacks deeper analytical interpretation.
5. Several sections resemble administrative reporting rather than academic analysis.

The authors should better position the study within existing literature on decentralized educational governance and participatory school financing.

Technical Quality

The study employs a mixed-method approach with qualitative dominance, using interviews, questionnaires, observation, and documentary analysis.

Positive aspects:

Multiple data collection techniques were used.

Sampling procedures are partially described.

The study includes quantitative indicators and field observations.

minor concerns:

1. Methodological rigor is limited:

No clear explanation of questionnaire validation.

Reliability testing is absent.

Data analysis procedures are not adequately explained.

2. Statistical analysis is weak:

Mostly descriptive percentages are provided.

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No inferential statistical analysis is performed.

Relationships between variables are not analytically tested.

3. Sampling issues:

Sampling justification is insufficient.

Representativeness of the sample is unclear.

Snowball and purposive techniques may introduce bias.

4. Tables and charts:

Some tables are difficult to interpret due to abbreviations and formatting issues.

Charts lack professional formatting and detailed captions.

5. The discussion section mainly repeats results without sufficient comparison with previous studies.

6. Several conclusions are generalized beyond the presented evidence.

The technical quality would improve substantially with stronger analytical procedures and clearer methodological reporting.

Language and Presentation

The manuscript requires minor English language editing. Numerous grammatical, syntactical, and stylistic problems reduce readability throughout the paper.

Examples include:

Incorrect verb tense usage.

Literal translation structures from French.

Long and repetitive sentences.

Inconsistent terminology.

Typographical and formatting errors.

Examples:

“financial lack directly hindering” is awkward wording.

“bad connotation of school of ‘white’” requires clearer academic phrasing.

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Presentation issues:

Inconsistent formatting of headings and tables.

Overly long paragraphs.

Repetition of ideas in discussion sections.

Several tables and figures require better labeling and formatting.

Professional English editing is strongly recommended before publication consideration.

Structure and Organization

The manuscript follows a general academic structure:

Abstract

Introduction

Methodology

Results and Discussion

Conclusion

References

Strengths:

Logical overall sequence.

Inclusion of contextual background on Droum commune.

Concerns:

1. The introduction is excessively long and historical.
2. Research questions and hypotheses are missing.
3. Results and discussion are not clearly separated.
4. Some subsections contain repetitive explanations.

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5. Certain arguments are difficult to follow because of lengthy narrative descriptions.

The manuscript would benefit from:

A concise theoretical framework,

Clear research objectives,

Better separation between results and interpretation,

and a more focused discussion section.

References and Citations

The manuscript includes several references relevant to educational decentralization and school management in West Africa.

Strengths:

Use of regional and UNESCO-related references.

Inclusion of local reports and educational policy documents.

Concerns:

1. Reference formatting is inconsistent.

2. Several citations are outdated.

3. Many references are gray literature or administrative reports.

4. Recent international peer-reviewed studies on decentralized educational governance are limited.

5. Citation style requires standardization according to journal guidelines.

The literature review should include more recent and internationally indexed research articles.

Overall Recommendation

The manuscript addresses a meaningful and policy-relevant educational issue in the context of decentralized school governance in Niger. The field-based findings and practical observations provide useful local insights into funding challenges faced by school management committees.

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However, the manuscript currently has significant weaknesses related to:

Methodological rigor,

Statistical analysis,

Scientific writing,

Structural organization,

and analytical depth.

Substantial revision is required before the manuscript can be considered suitable for publication.

Final Decision

minor Revision