



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.....yes.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			Y	
Techn. Quality			Y	
Clarity			Y	
Significance			y	

Reviewer's ID: JPR-Dr.Shaweta Sachdeva

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The research gap should be stated more explicitly. Add 1-2 sentences in the introduction clarifying what this Droum case adds beyond existing national-level studies on CGDES.

Justify the sample sizes. Explain why 200 parents out of 877 and 20 CGDES were selected, and address whether this is representative of the commune

REVIEWER'S REPORT

1. Clarify the qualitative analysis method. State if you used thematic coding, content analysis, or another approach for the interviews.
2. Soften causal claims in the results. Phrases like “creates a financial lack” read as causal, but the data is descriptive. Use “is associated with” or support with interview evidence showing the mechanism.
3. Discuss whether FC/CGDES failures reflect policy design flaws or implementation flaws. The decree assigns duties with no budget, so consider if the mandate itself is unrealistic.
4. Define all terms in Table 1 in the caption, including M/caped and subventionnée. Also discuss why only 15% of schools carried out awareness activities when you describe it as essential.
5. Group factors in the abstract for clarity. Change the long list to “Internal factors included member illiteracy and poor transparency; external factors included parent distrust of Western-style schooling and political co-optation.”
6. Fix language issues. For example, change “bad connotation of school of 'white'” to “negative perceptions of Western-style schooling.”
7. Check acronym consistency throughout. CGDES appears as CGGES in places.
8. Add a quality indicator to support the claim that quality declined even as enrollment rose from 16% to 52%. Dropout or exam pass rates would help.
9. Clarify whether the decree requires literacy for committee members. Since 70% illiteracy is a key finding, this matters for policy implications.
10. Actually discuss Figure 2 in the text. Add a sentence linking Droum's proximity to Zinder with the FC/CGDES's reported lack of partners.
11. Update references where possible. Some are dated relative to your 2017 fieldwork, so add 1-2 recent studies on school-based management in the Sahel if available.
12. Strengthen the conclusion with concrete recommendations. Consider adding 2-3 specific actions like literacy requirements for treasurers, an earmarked municipal budget line for FC/CGDES, or scaling the PAQUE training model.
13. Ensure sentences aren't too long. L138-L140 and similar sections would read better if split into two sentences.