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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56351

Title: Assessing the basic health facilities and satisfaction level of rural people in the Evidence from District Sanghar, Pakistan,

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

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

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The article titled "Assessing the basic health facilities and satisfaction level of rural people in the Evidence from District Sanghar, Pakistan" provides a critical empirical examination of the healthcare disparities prevalent in the Sindh Province. By employing a multi-stage cluster sampling design with 300 participants, the study offers a rigorous quantitative look at the gap between the physical presence of health infrastructure and the actual quality of service delivery. A primary strength of this research is its balanced use of descriptive and multiple regression analyses, which allows the author to move beyond simple observations to identify the specific socioeconomic indicators that dictate healthcare access. The findings are particularly striking, revealing that while government hospitals and vaccination centers are geographically "available," only 25% of users rate them as satisfactory. The identification of Jam Nawaz Ali taluka as the area with the lowest satisfaction levels provides actionable localized data that is essential for provincial health planning and resource allocation in Pakistan.

However, the manuscript exhibits several weaknesses that should be addressed to enhance its scholarly depth and policy impact. The first significant weakness is the lack of a qualitative component to explain the high "unsatisfactory" ratings. While the data shows that 40% of users are unhappy, the paper does not sufficiently detail the specific reasons behind this sentiment—whether it is due to a lack of medicines, the absence of doctors, long waiting times, or the poor attitude of medical staff. Incorporating excerpts from the open-ended questions mentioned in the abstract would have provided the "human element" necessary to understand the root causes of patient dissatisfaction. Without this narrative depth, the recommendations for improvement remain somewhat generic.

A second weakness is the insufficient discussion on the "barriers to using an ambulance or making an appointment" mentioned in the results. In rural Sindh, these barriers are often tied to deeply entrenched

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cultural norms, gender dynamics, or the "Vadera" (landlord) system. The paper treats these barriers as purely logistical or administrative issues without exploring the social complexities that prevent a rural resident from accessing specialty care. A more nuanced analysis of the socio-cultural landscape of District Sanghar would have added a layer of sophistication to the regression results.

Furthermore, the study's focus on "availability" does not adequately address the "affordability" of healthcare. Even if public facilities are free, the indirect costs of transportation, loss of daily wages, and the common practice of buying prescribed medicines from private pharmacies can make "free" healthcare inaccessible. The author missed an opportunity to analyze how these hidden costs influence the satisfaction levels of different income groups within the Sanghar district.

Finally, the bibliography includes several citations from 2024 and 2025, which is commendable for ensuring current relevance, but the formatting of the references is inconsistent. Some entries lack full publication details, and the in-text citations occasionally drift from the standard academic style. A thorough editorial review is needed to ensure the manuscript meets the professional standards required for a high-impact public health journal.

Recommendation for the Editor

In conclusion, I recommend this article for final publication with minor revisions. The work addresses a vital gap in rural health research in Pakistan and provides a clear diagnostic of the failings within the District Sanghar health system. By adding more qualitative insights into patient experiences and clarifying the social barriers to care, the author will provide an even more powerful tool for advocates of universal health coverage. The research is timely, data-driven, and its publication will contribute significantly to the discourse on health equity in developing nations.